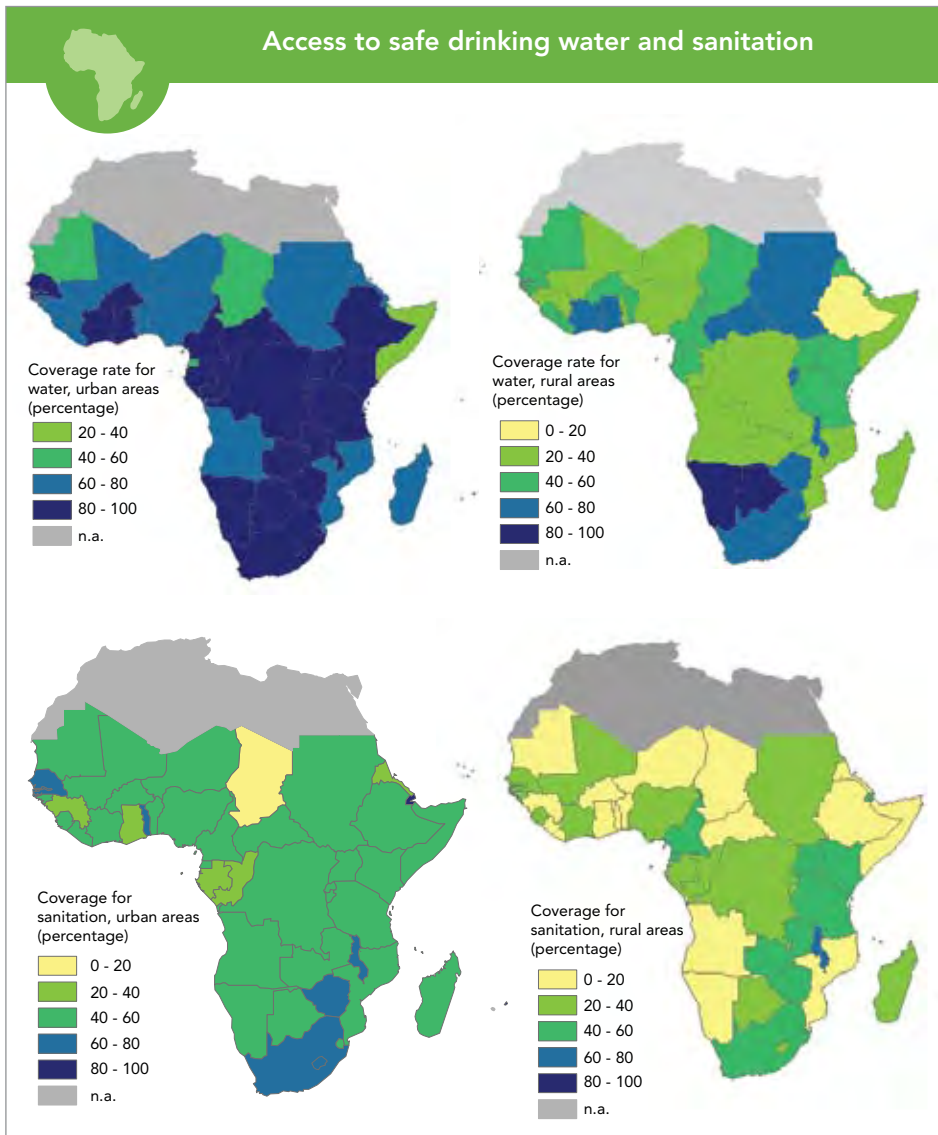


INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

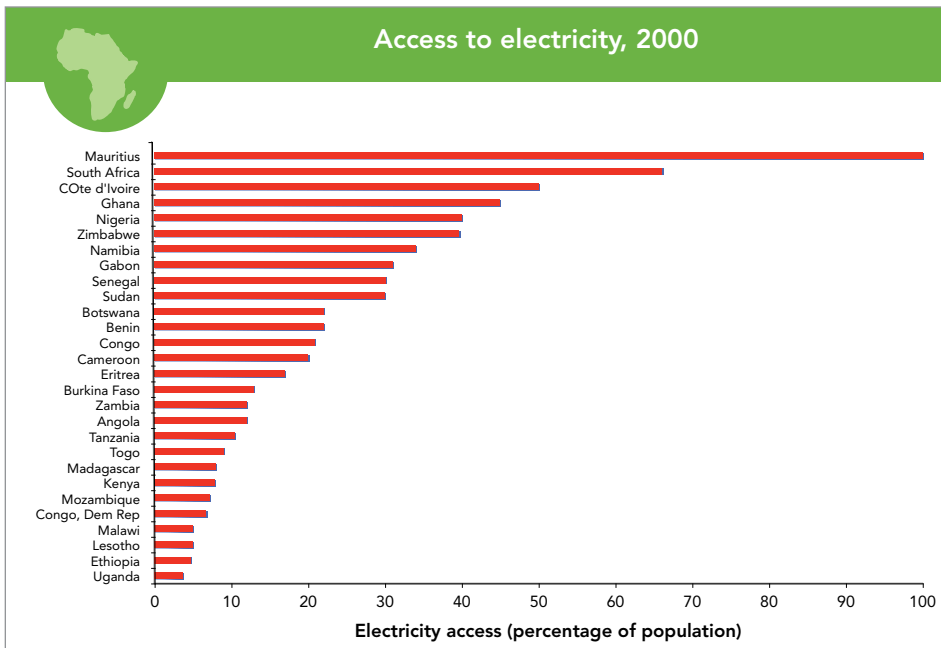


Source: Joint Monitoring Programme, 2006.

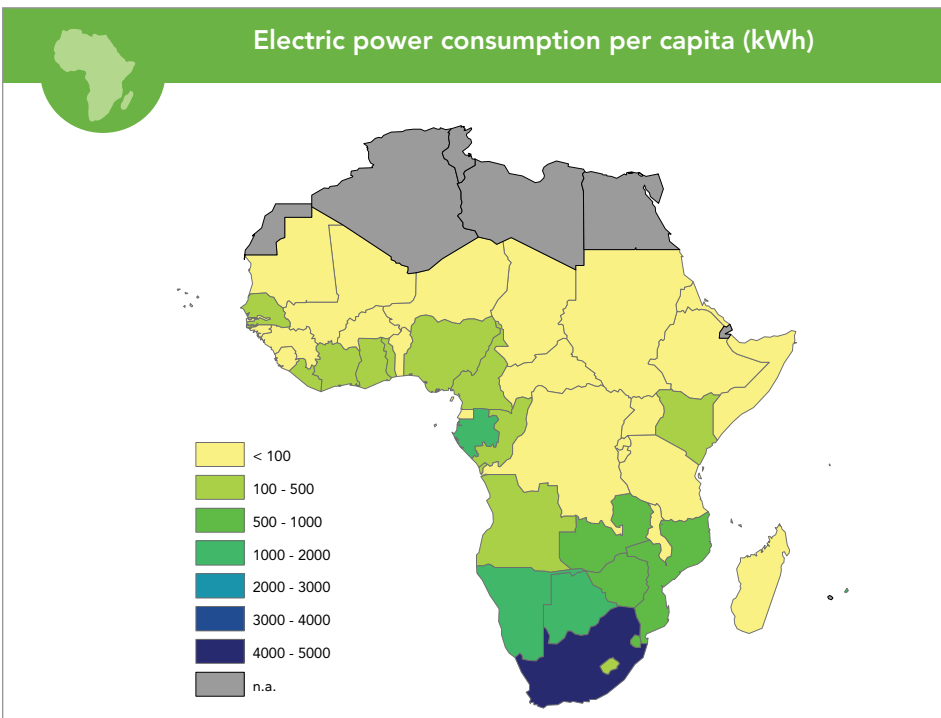
Lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains widespread.

Many countries registered encouraging improvements of their coverage rates between 1990 and 2004. However, access remains far from being universal even in the richest countries of the region. For both water and sanitation, there is a sharp difference between urban and rural areas, the latter often lagging behind. There is also a gap between water and sanitation coverage, which has important consequences for health. Untreated sewage effluents contaminate drinking-water sources, as well as rivers and watersheds that are critical for agriculture, food resources and wildlife.





Source: IEA, 2002.



Source: AFDB, 2007.

Compared with Europe and the Middle East, Africa at night seen from space is mostly dark with a few bright spots corresponding to the North African coast, the Nile valley in Egypt, South Africa, the coast near the Congo and the Niger Delta.

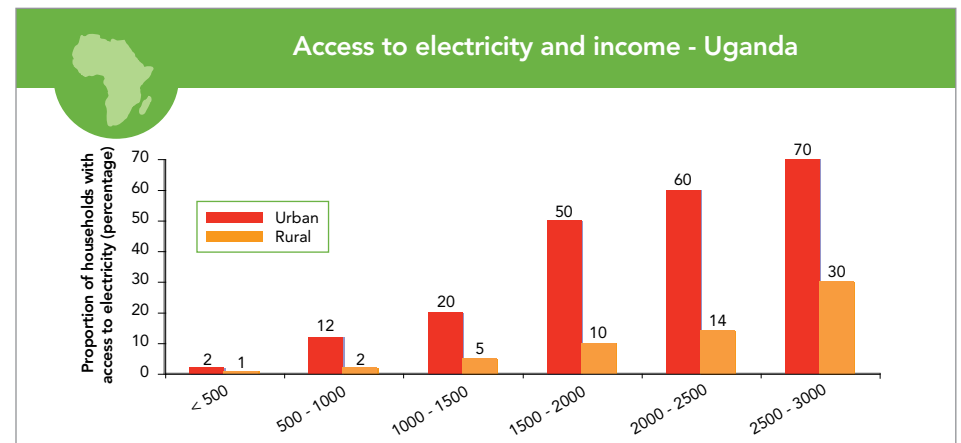


More than 500 million sub-Saharan Africans do not have access to modern energy.

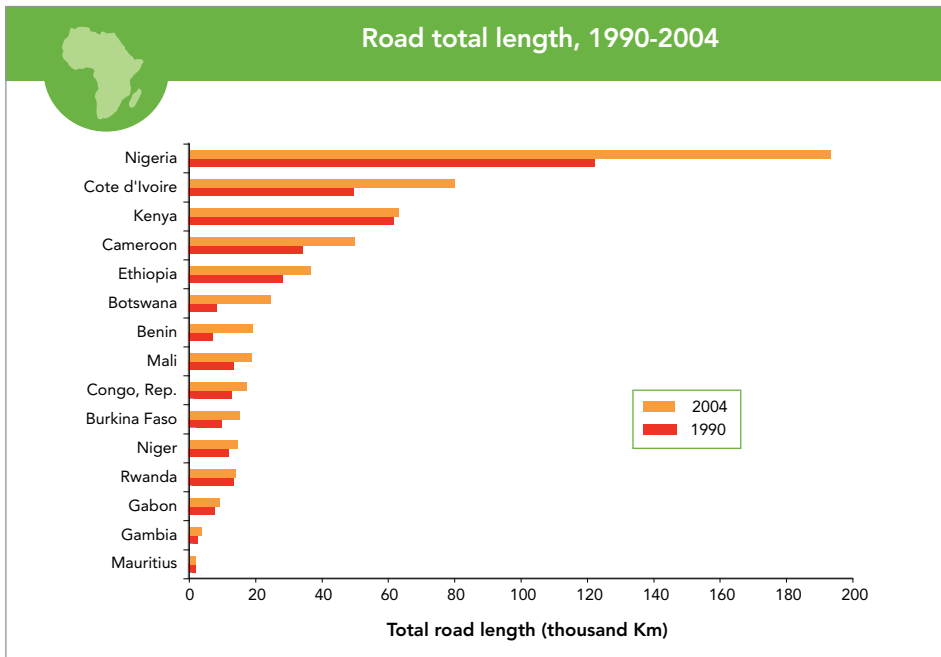
Access to electricity, as well as electricity consumption, vary widely across countries. Per capita electricity consumption in South Africa is about a hundred times the average consumption in Sahel countries. Within countries, access to electricity tends to be higher in urban areas and to increase with income. The cost of lighting with alternative energy sources takes substantial portions of income in the poorest households. Lack of access to modern energy results in air pollution, acute health problems, and environmental problems linked to overconsumption or inadequate management of wood resources.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for over a tenth of the world's population, but generates only 3 per cent of global electricity.

A large share of it (71 per cent) is produced by South Africa alone. Although coal-fired power stations predominate in South Africa, the rest of the continent remains largely dependent on hydropower. The need for more power stations in the rest of the continent has long been recognized. In many countries, electricity demand continues to grow, fuelled in particular by growth in incomes and rural-urban migrations.



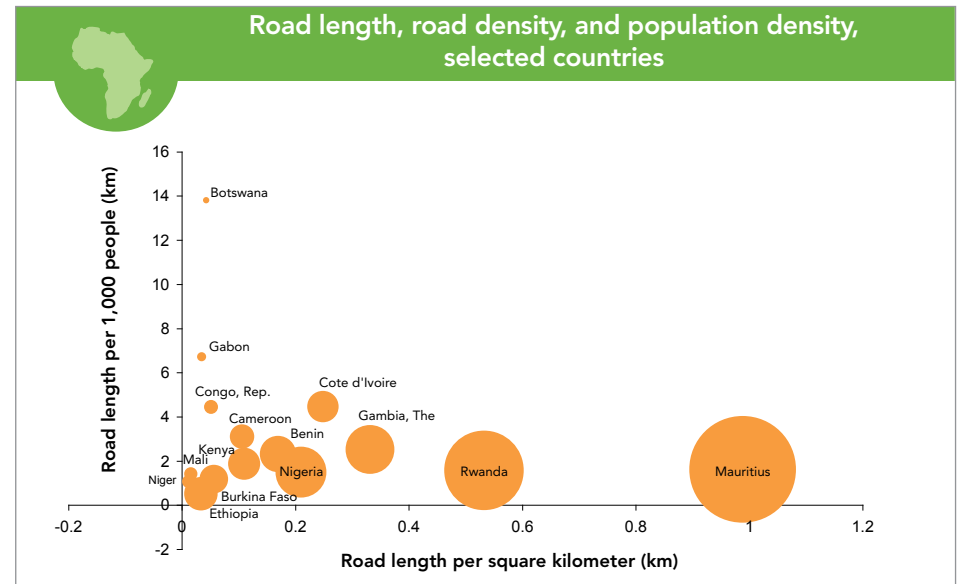
Source: IFC, 2007.



Source: World Bank, 2006.

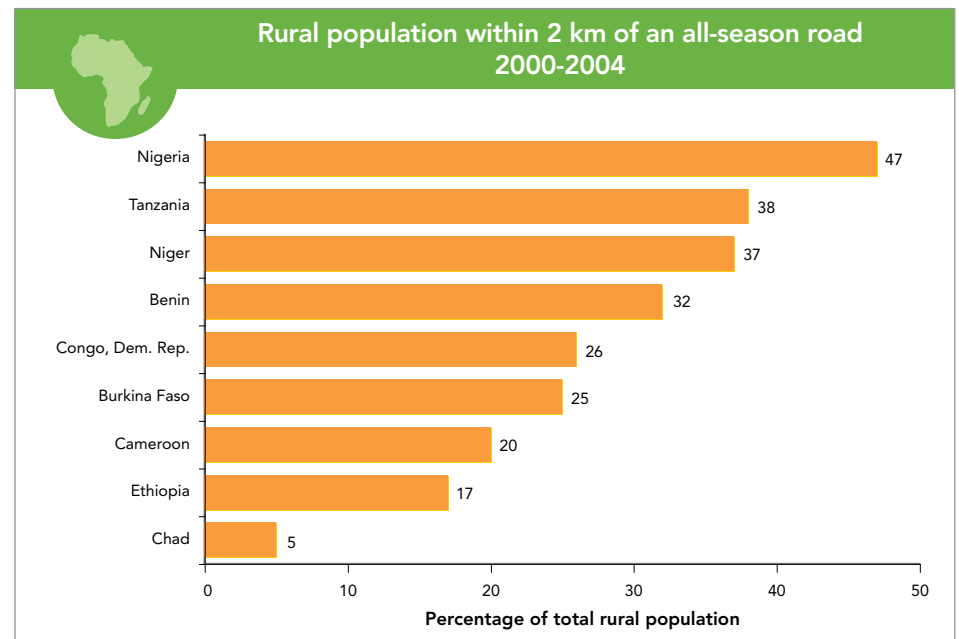
Roads are still insufficiently developed.

Low population densities in some countries like Gabon or Botswana translate into high per capita cost of road networks. Countries with high population densities, like Rwanda, the Gambia and Nigeria, tend to have more developed road networks. In addition to the length of road networks, poor quality of roads due to inadequate maintenance is a recurrent problem in many countries. Lack of adequately maintained roads often translates into obstacles to economic development, especially in countries where agriculture still constitutes the economic backbone and access to markets from rural areas remains a critical problem.

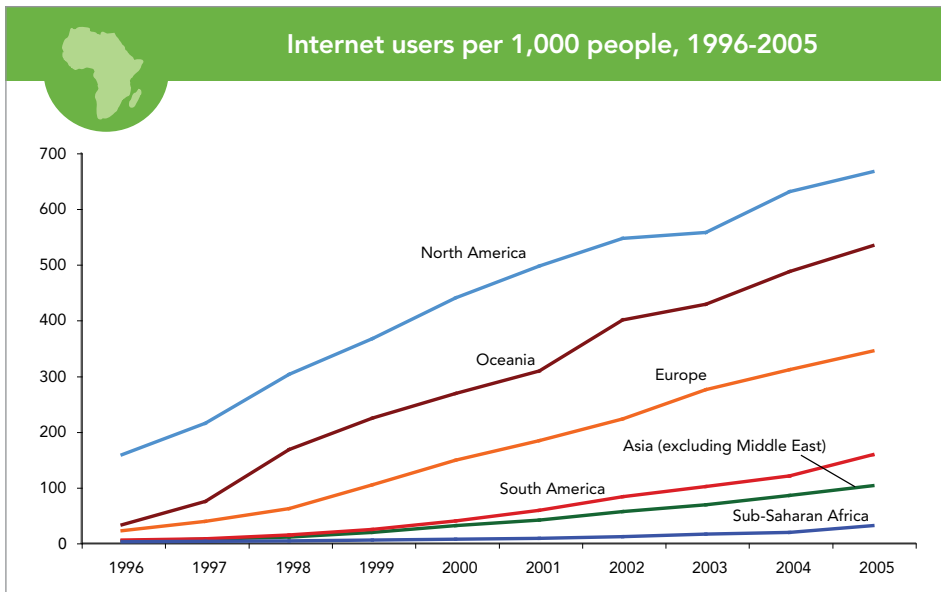


Source: World Bank, 2006.

Note: Size of the bubble: population density.



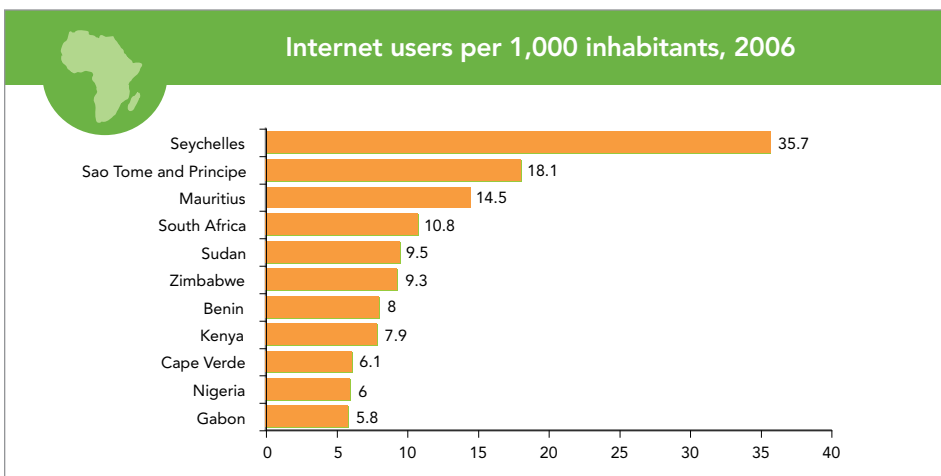
Source: World Bank, 2006.



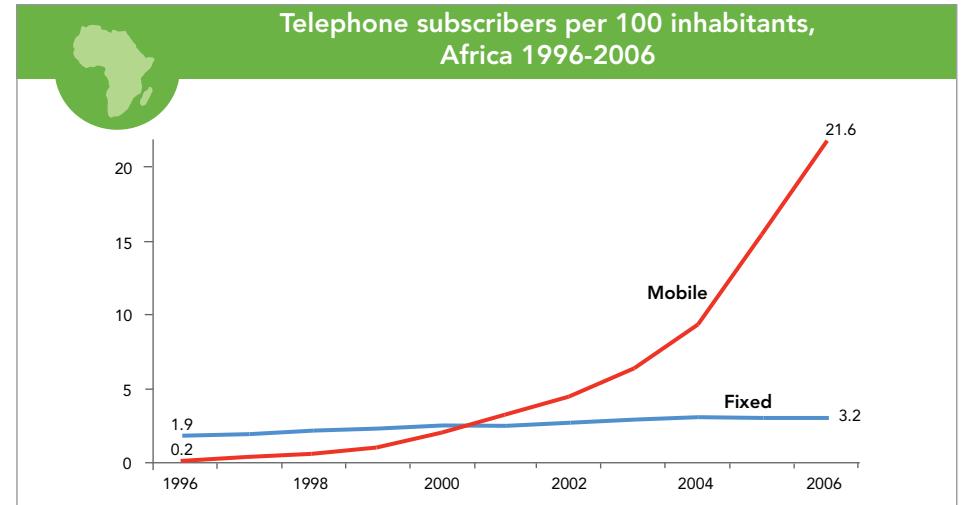
Source: ITU, 2007.

Access to information and communication technologies (ICT) is low but increasing rapidly.

In terms of access to ICT, sub-Saharan Africa has lagged behind the trends observed in other regions. Internet access rates are much lower in sub-Saharan Africa (1.3 subscriber per 1,000 people in 2006) than in Asia (4.8) and Oceania (29.3).²¹



Source: ITU, 2007.



Source: ITU, 2007.

Mobile phones have taken off rapidly.

While telephone access is lower than in other parts of the world, with no countries registering more than 2 fixed telephone connections per 10 people, the landscape in ICT is changing quite rapidly in many countries, due to the extraordinarily fast uptake of mobile phones. The continent has the highest ratio of mobile to total telephone subscribers of any region and the highest mobile cellular growth rate. Growth over the past 5 years averaged around 50 per cent year on year. In Nigeria, the opening of the mobile market in 2001 has resulted in a massive increase in the number of subscribers, from 25,000 in 1999 to 32.3 million in 2006.²² With mobile phones are associated innovative services like remote banking and other financial services as well as Internet access. This development of mobile phones represents one promising opportunity for development, mainly by allowing development of new business models to reach poor communities more efficiently.

