



Final project webinar

Tuesday 31 March 2026

11:00-12:45 hrs. (EAT) | 10:00 – 11:45 hrs. (CET)

Sustainable Smart Ports in Africa: From Assessment to Action

Context

Ports play a critical role in enabling global trade and supporting economic development, moving essential goods such as food, fuel, medicines and electronics. At the same time, they are among the most energy-intensive components of the transport system and remain highly dependent on fossil fuels and electricity. As the maritime sector transitions toward low-carbon energy systems, ports face growing pressure to improve efficiency, reduce emissions and modernize their energy infrastructure.

To address these challenges, the Sustainable Smart Ports (SSP) project, implemented by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with support from the United Nations Development Account, has supported pilot assessments in three African ports—Tema (Ghana), Port Louis (Mauritius) and Tanger Med (Morocco). The project helped identify practical pathways to improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable energy solutions, and strengthen institutional and stakeholder coordination to support more sustainable and resilient port operations.

Objective

This webinar will present the main findings and lessons learned from the SSP assessments and related capacity-building activities. It will highlight key insights from the pilot ports and discuss how similar approaches can support sustainable port development across Africa.

The discussion will focus on practical experiences from participating ports and policy perspectives on enabling sustainable port reforms and strategies, including opportunities for regional cooperation, financing and partnerships.

Target participants

- Port authorities and port stakeholders, including terminal operators
- Government representatives from ministries of transport, energy and environment





- Energy providers, as well as environmental stakeholders
- Private sector actors in maritime transport and logistics

Modalities

Online

Languages supported: English

Contacts

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Proposed agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Ms. Diane Sayinzoga, Chief, Regional Office for Africa, UNCTAD

Overview of SSP Project, key project findings and Achievements

Ms. Luisa Rodriguez, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Section, UNCTAD

- Key outputs delivered by the project over four years.
- Key findings from the SSP assessments, capacity building activities and cross-cutting lessons from the pilot ports
- Opportunities to scale the SSP approach across Africa

Panel Discussion – From Assessment to Implementation: Perspectives from Ports, Government and Regional Partners

- Daniel Asare, Port Estate and Environment Manager, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
- Kailash Dhunoo, Senior Manager Technical Services, Mauritius Ports Authority
- Safae Lyazidi, Head of Security, Safety and Sustainable Development, Directorate of Ports and Maritime Public Domain. Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco
- James Ng'ang'a, Ports and Maritime Transport Expert, African Development Bank

Q&A with Participants

Moderated by Ms. Frida Youssef: Chief, Transport Section, UNCTAD

Closing Reflections and Next Steps:

Frida Youssef: Chief, Transport Section, UNCTAD

- Opportunities for continued collaboration and partnerships
- UNCTAD follow-up activities, SSP online course and other possible collaborations

