



# Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND  
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

## *The development of higher education in Africa. A global comparison*

**Anne Goujon**

Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital

Higher Education, Mobility and Migration in and out of Africa, Vienna, 19 – 21 June, 2014



International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis  
[www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at)





# Outline

- Introduction
- Where the data come from
- Overall levels of education
- Past & Present higher education in Africa
- Future higher education
- Conclusions

# Introduction

- Quantitative analysis ( $\neq$  qualitative) and descriptive
- Comparative analysis of all African countries with a regional perspective
- Contextual: Compare to other developing societies
- Link between education and demography

## Background and source of data

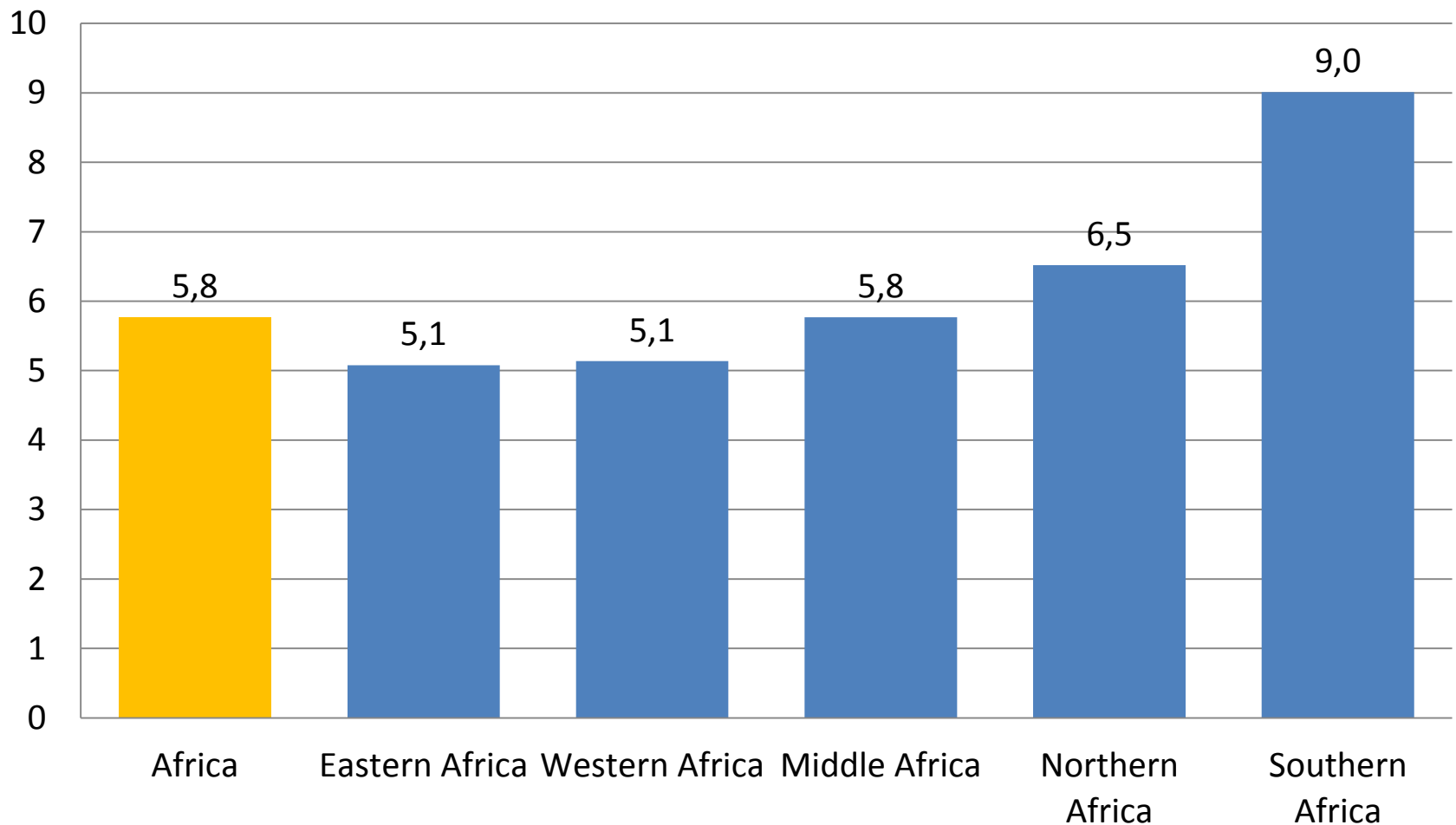
- Context: Global population projections by levels of educational attainment
  - See Lutz, W., Butz, W., and S. KC. 2014 forthcoming. World population and human capital in the 21st century. Oxford University Press.
  - Scope: 6 education categories, 171 countries
  - Methodology: Expert-based modeling

Soon available online at:

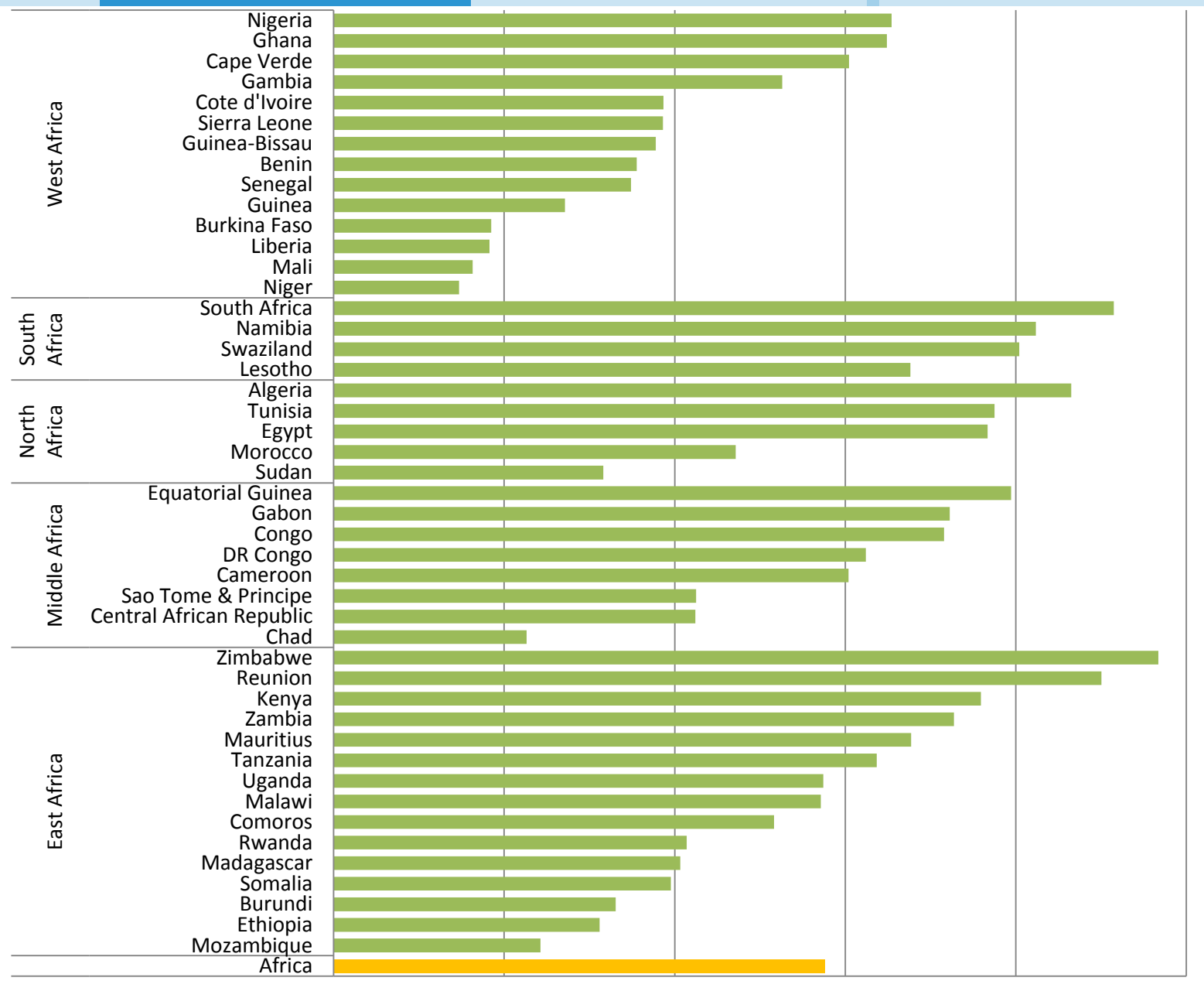
<http://www.Wittgensteincentre.org/dataexplorer>

# Levels of educational attainment in Africa in 2010

Mean years of schooling (15+), Africa and sub-regions, 2010

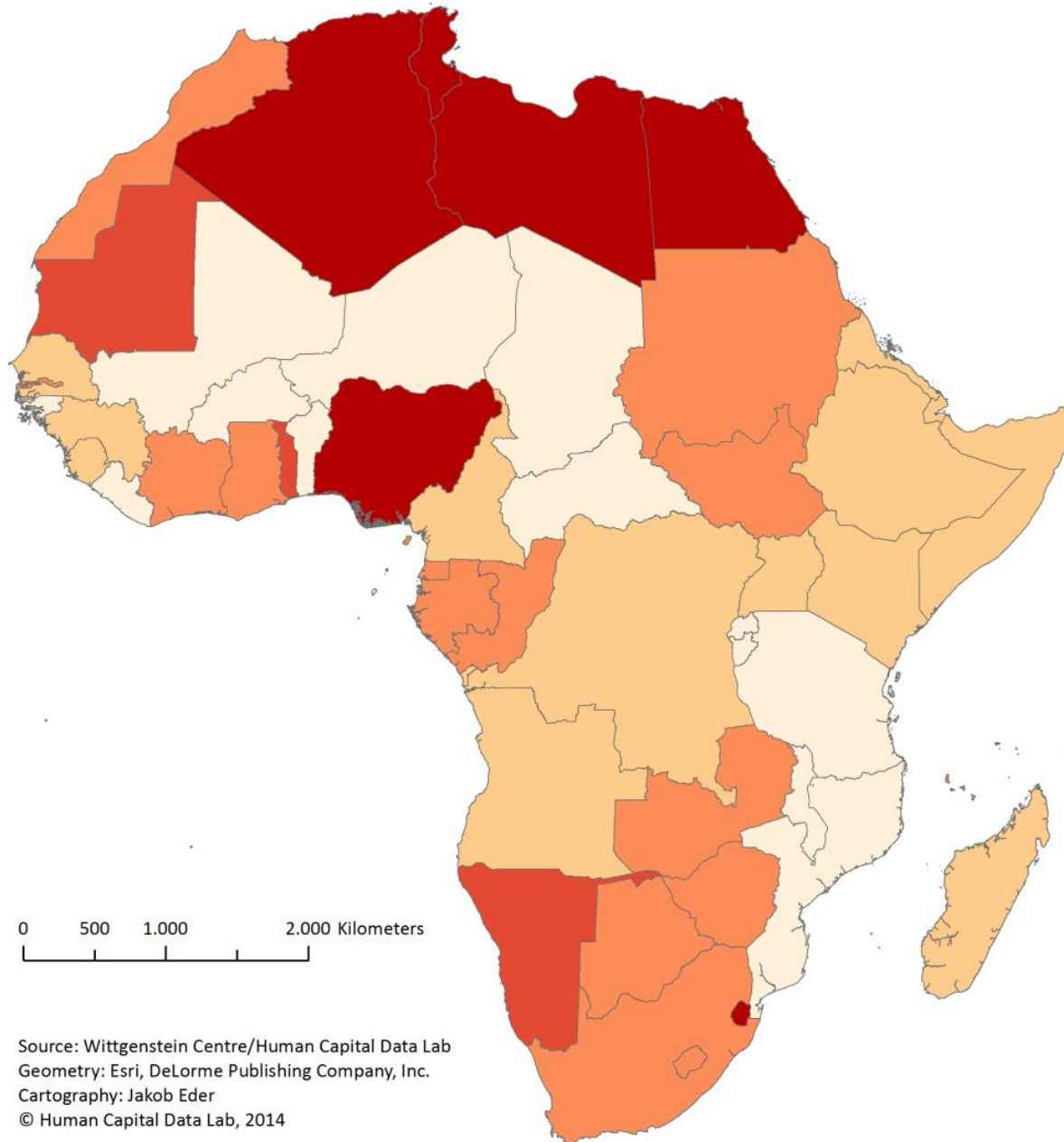
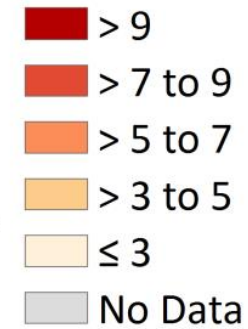


Mean years of schooling (15+), African countries, 2010



## Mean Years of Schooling in Africa 2010

in Years

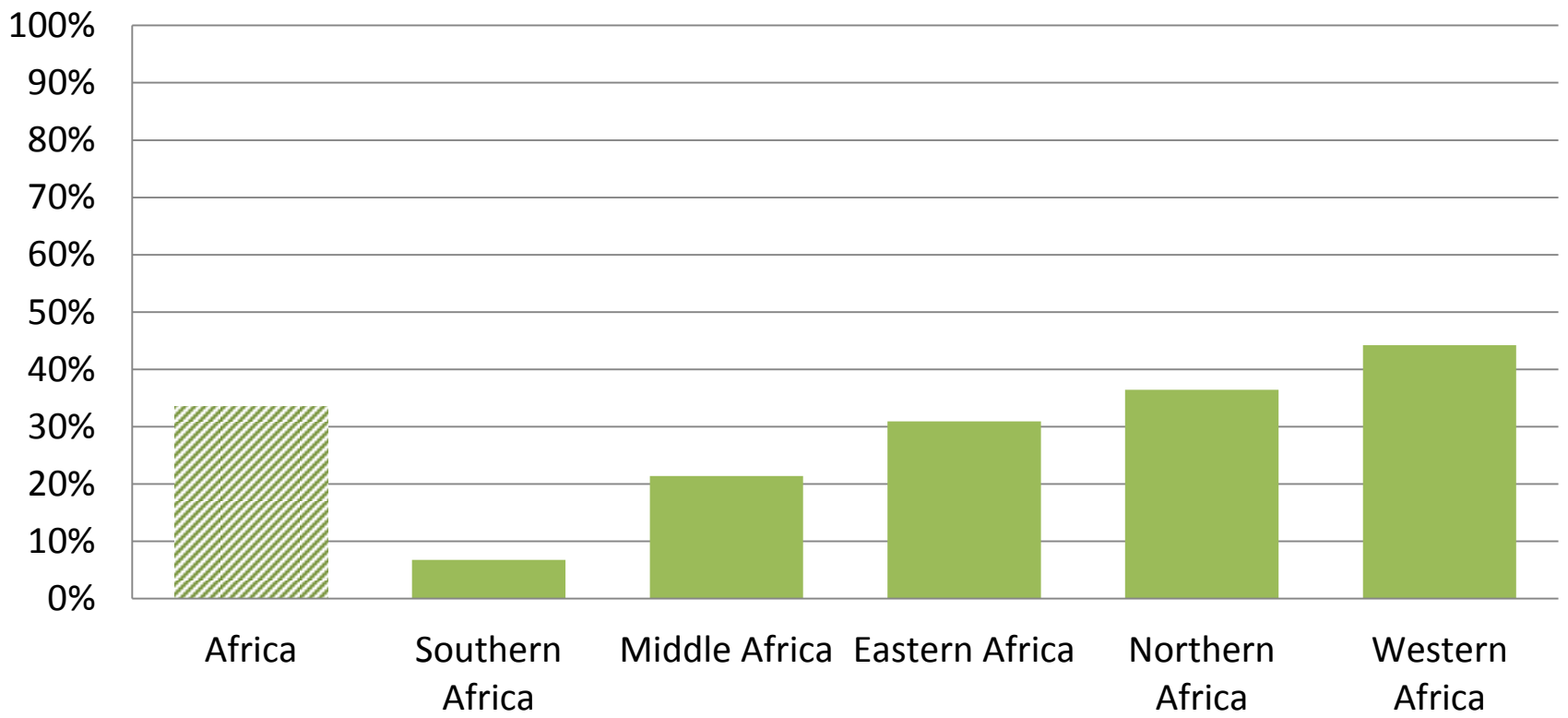


0 500 1.000 2.000 Kilometers

Source: Wittgenstein Centre/Human Capital Data Lab  
Geometry: Esri, DeLorme Publishing Company, Inc.  
Cartography: Jakob Eder  
© Human Capital Data Lab, 2014

# Proportion of 15+ population by education in 2010 in Africa and sub-regions

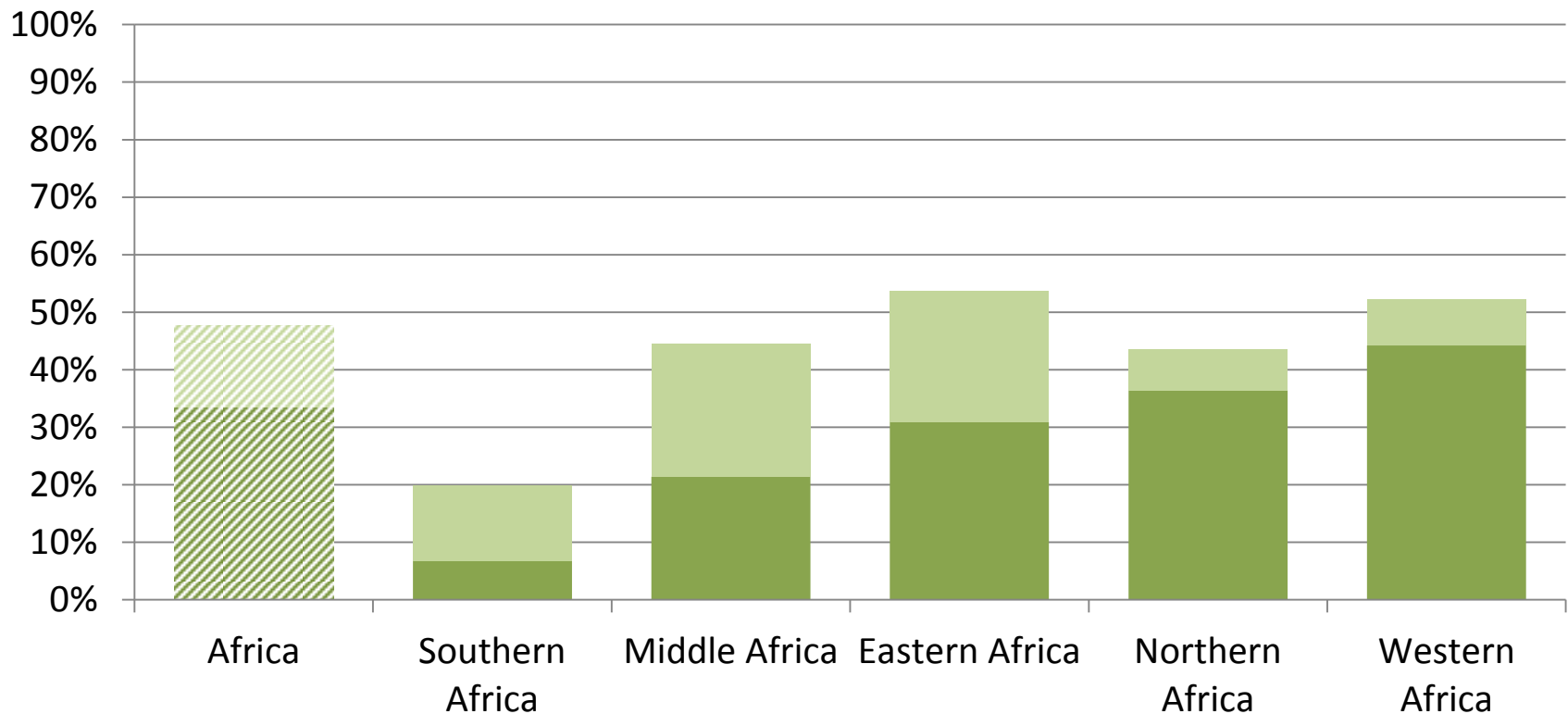
## No education





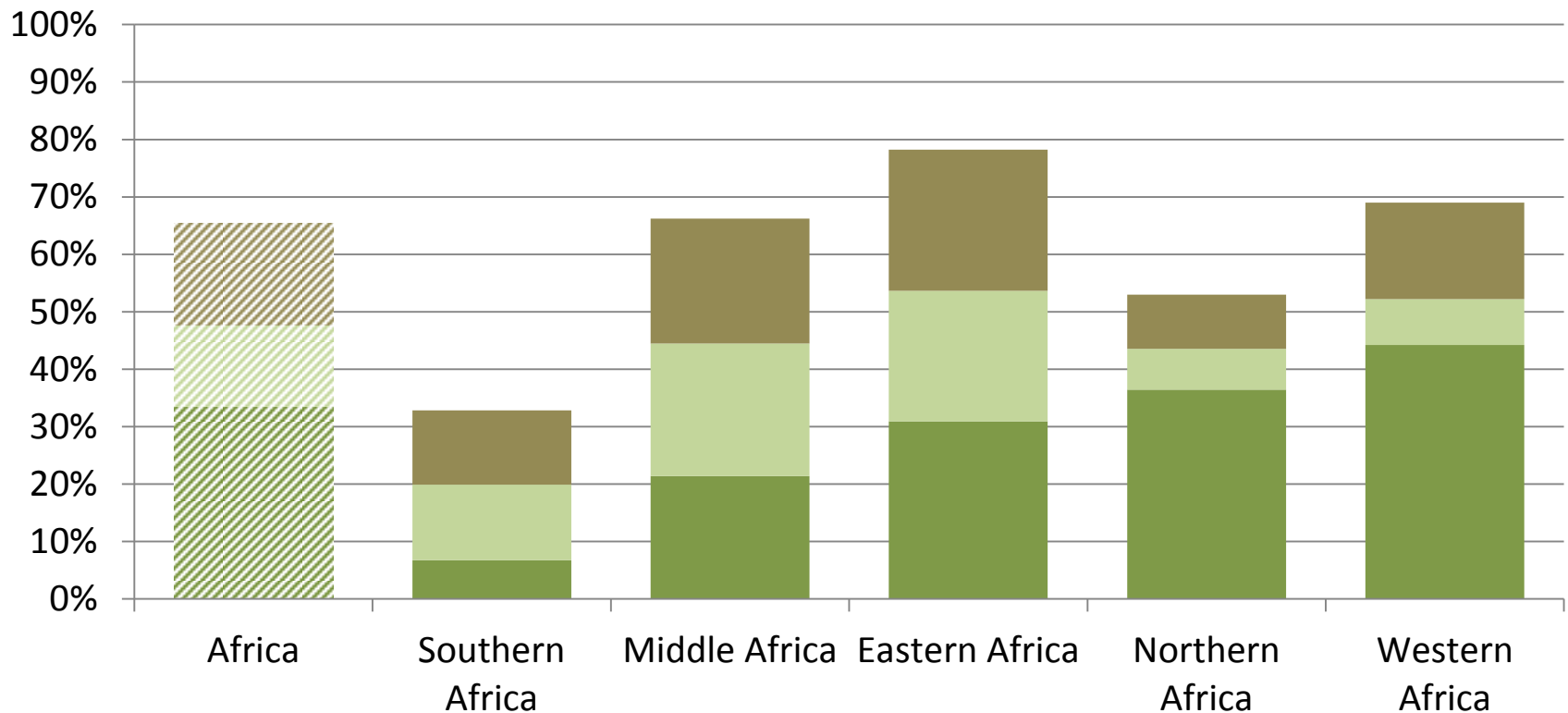
# Proportion of 15+ population by education in 2010 in Africa and sub-regions

## No education + Primary incomplete



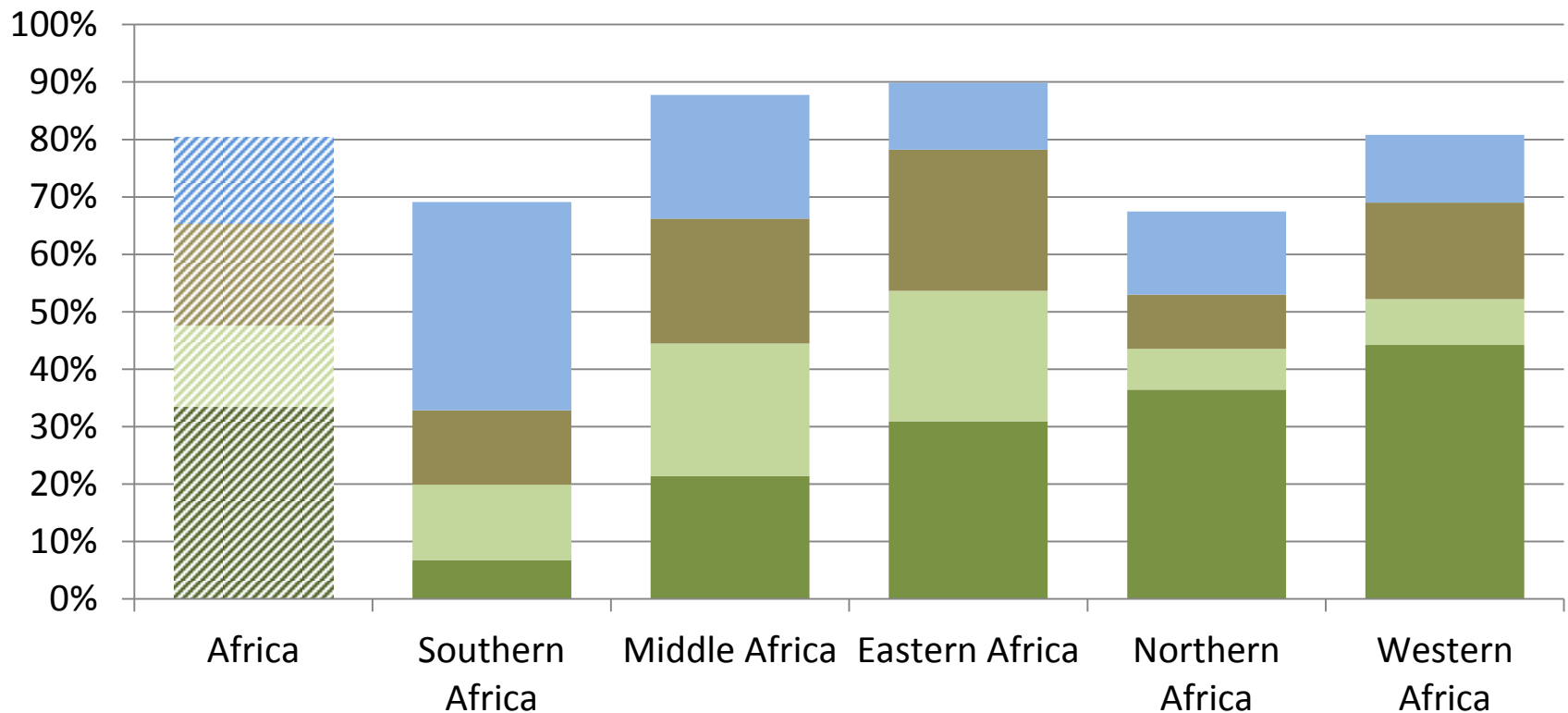
# Proportion of 15+ population by education in 2010 in Africa and sub-regions

No education + Primary incomplete + Primary completed



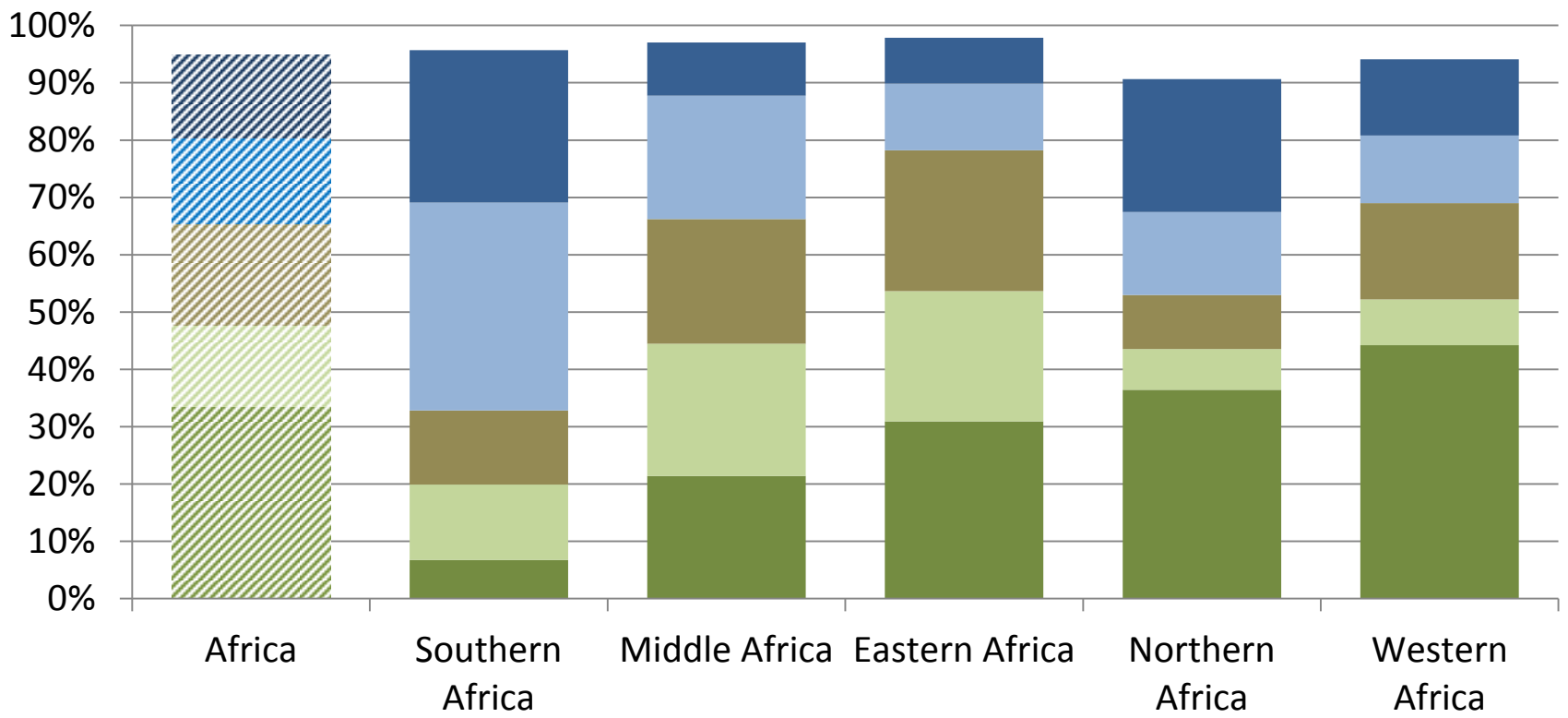
# Proportion of 15+ population by education in 2010 in Africa and sub-regions

No education + Primary incomplete + Primary completed + Lower secondary



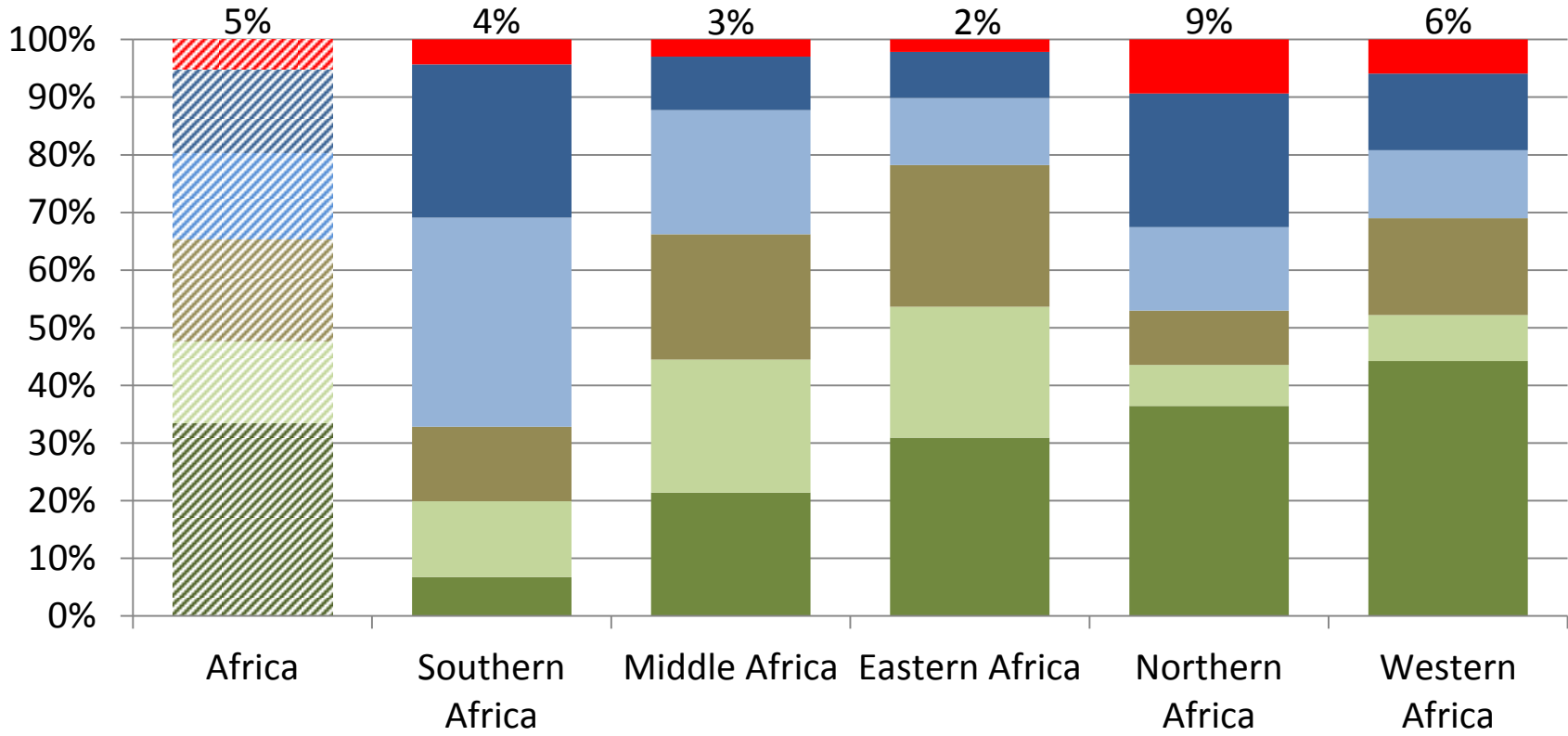
# Proportion of 15+ population by education in 2010 in Africa and sub-regions

No education + Primary incomplete + Primary completed + Lower secondary + Upper secondary



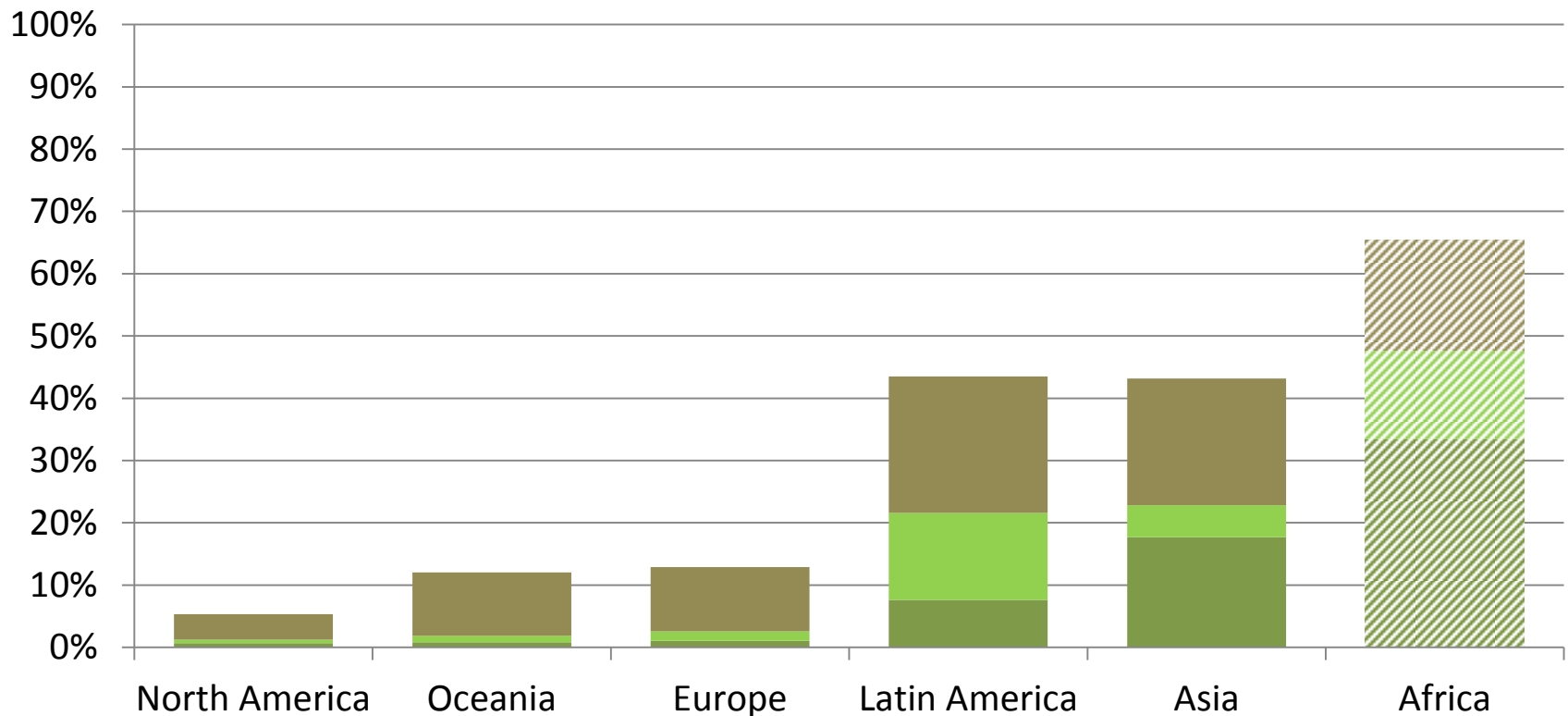
# Proportion of 15+ population by education in 2010 in Africa and sub-regions

No education + Primary incomplete + Primary completed + Lower secondary + Upper secondary + Post-secondary



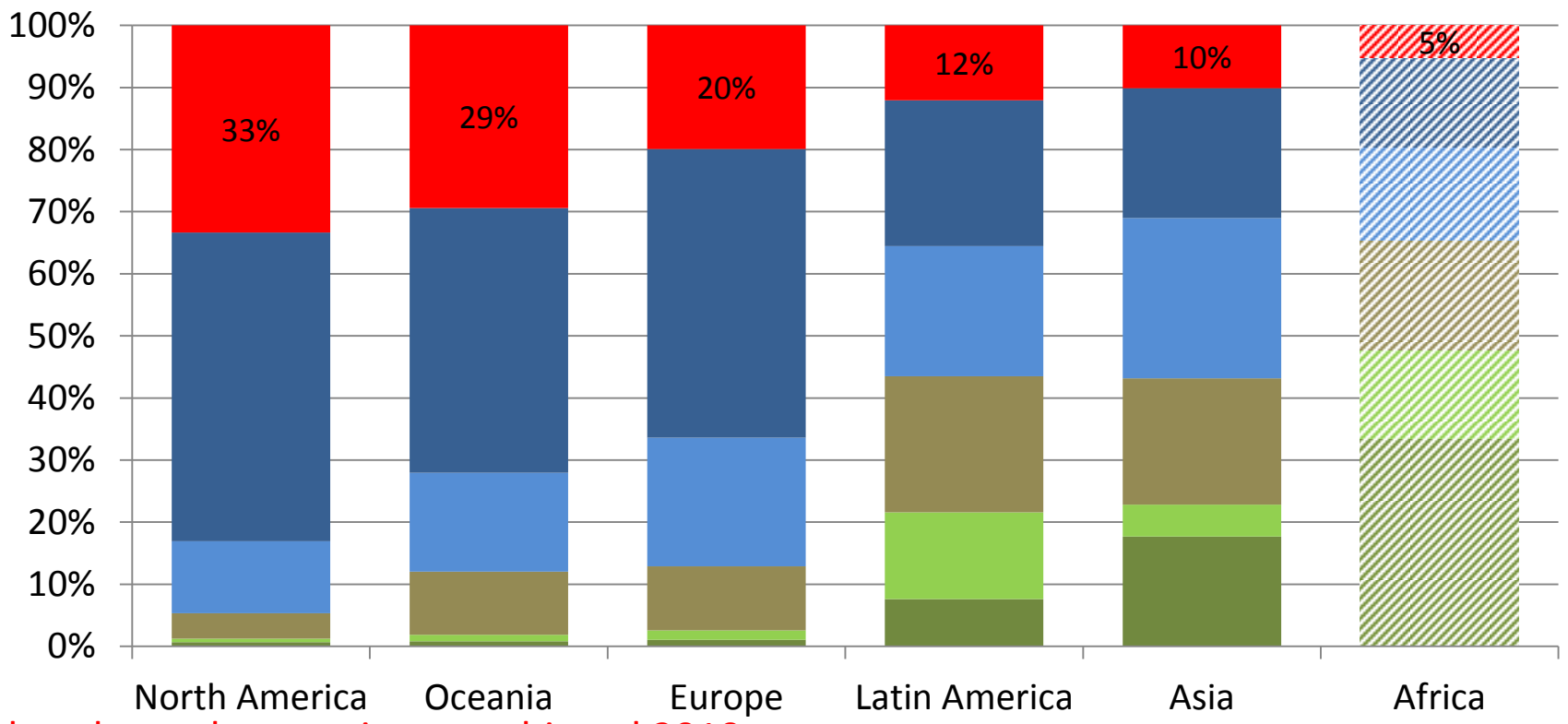
# Africa and other continents, 2010, proportion of 15+ population by education

No education + Primary incomplete + Primary completed



# Africa and other continents, 2010, proportion of 15+ population by education

No education + Primary incomplete + Primary completed + Lower secondary + Upper secondary + Post-secondary



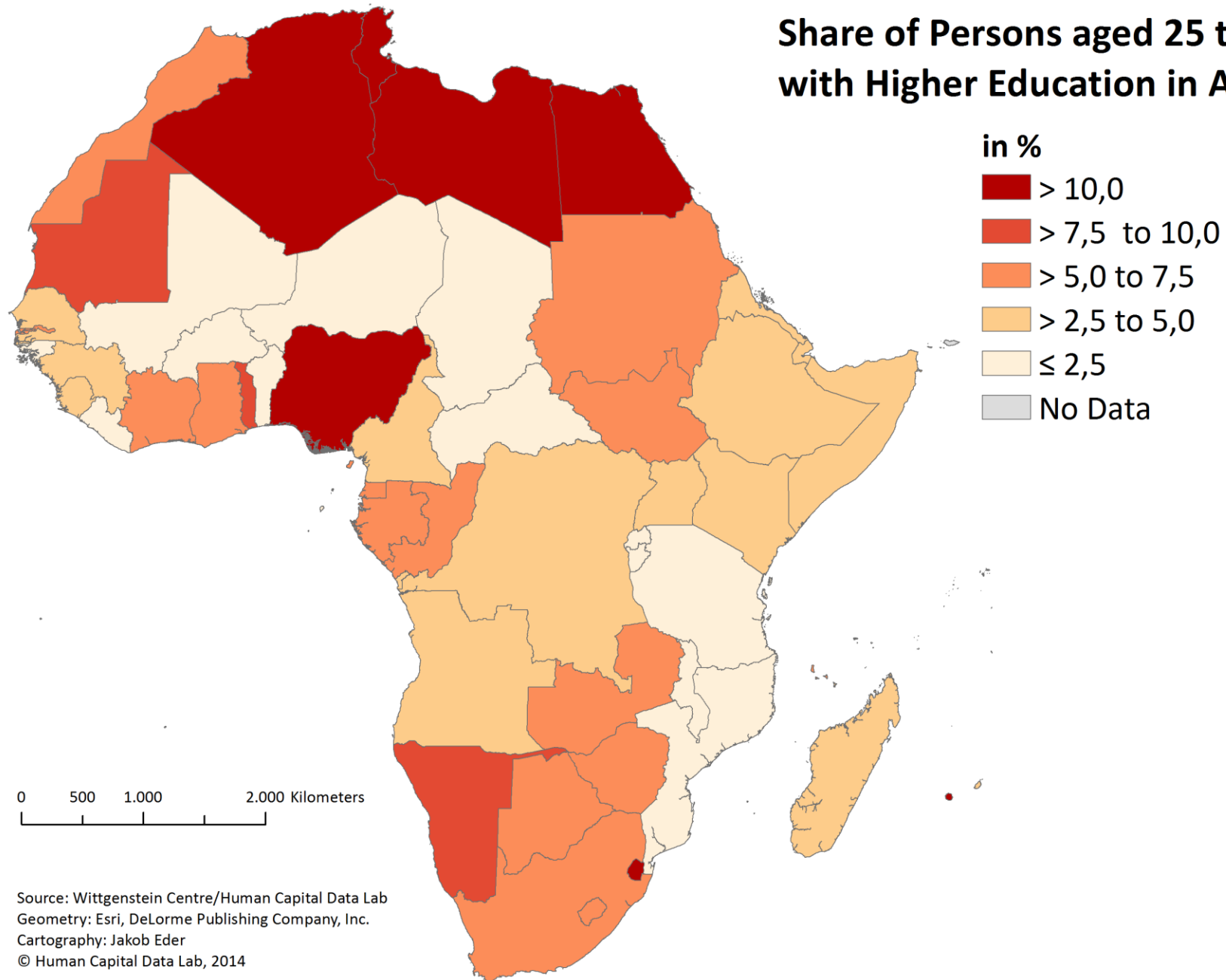
Year by when other continents achieved 2010

Africa's share of population in higher education

1980-1985

1990-1995

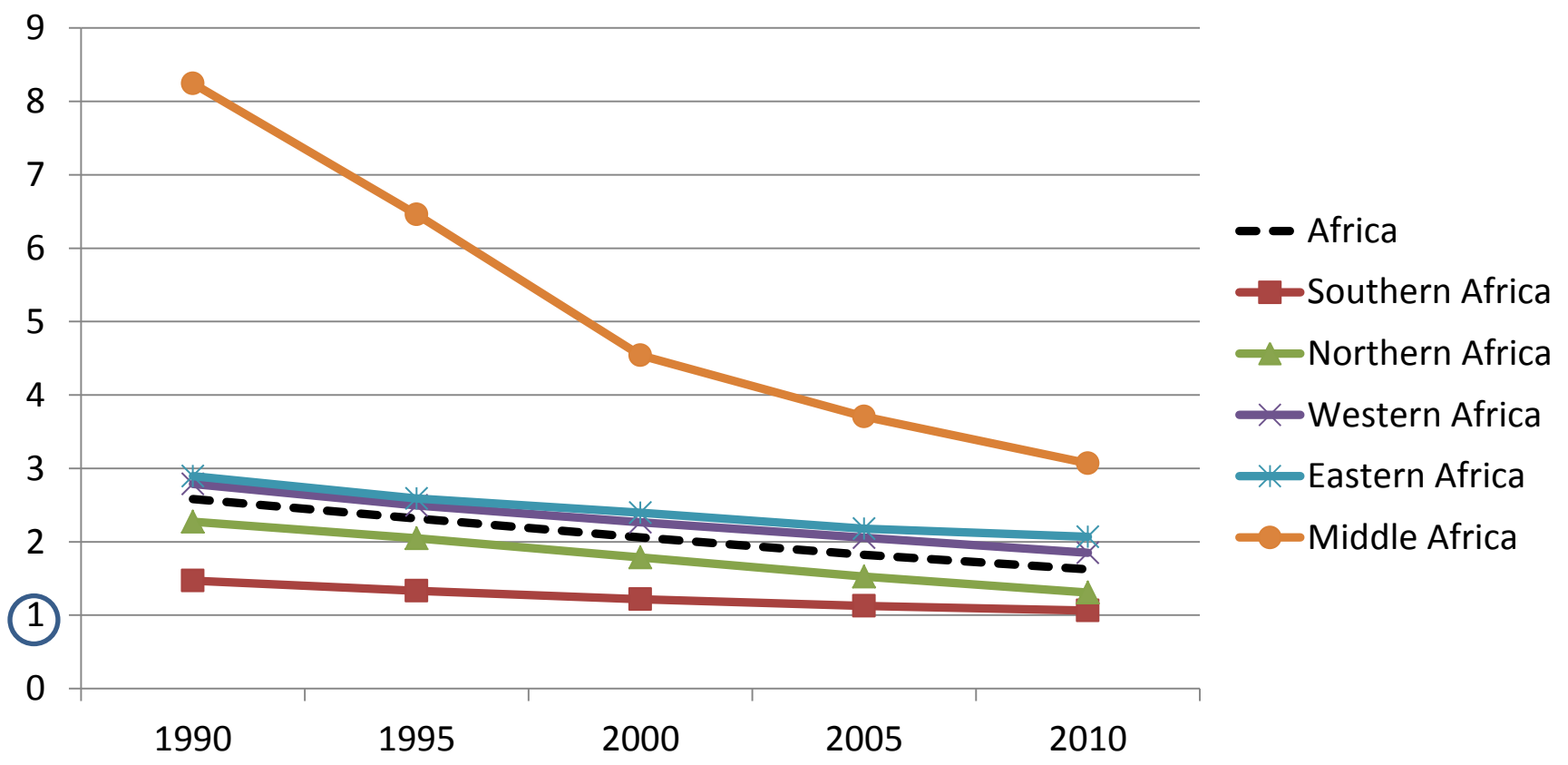
## Share of Persons aged 25 to 65 with Higher Education in Africa 2010





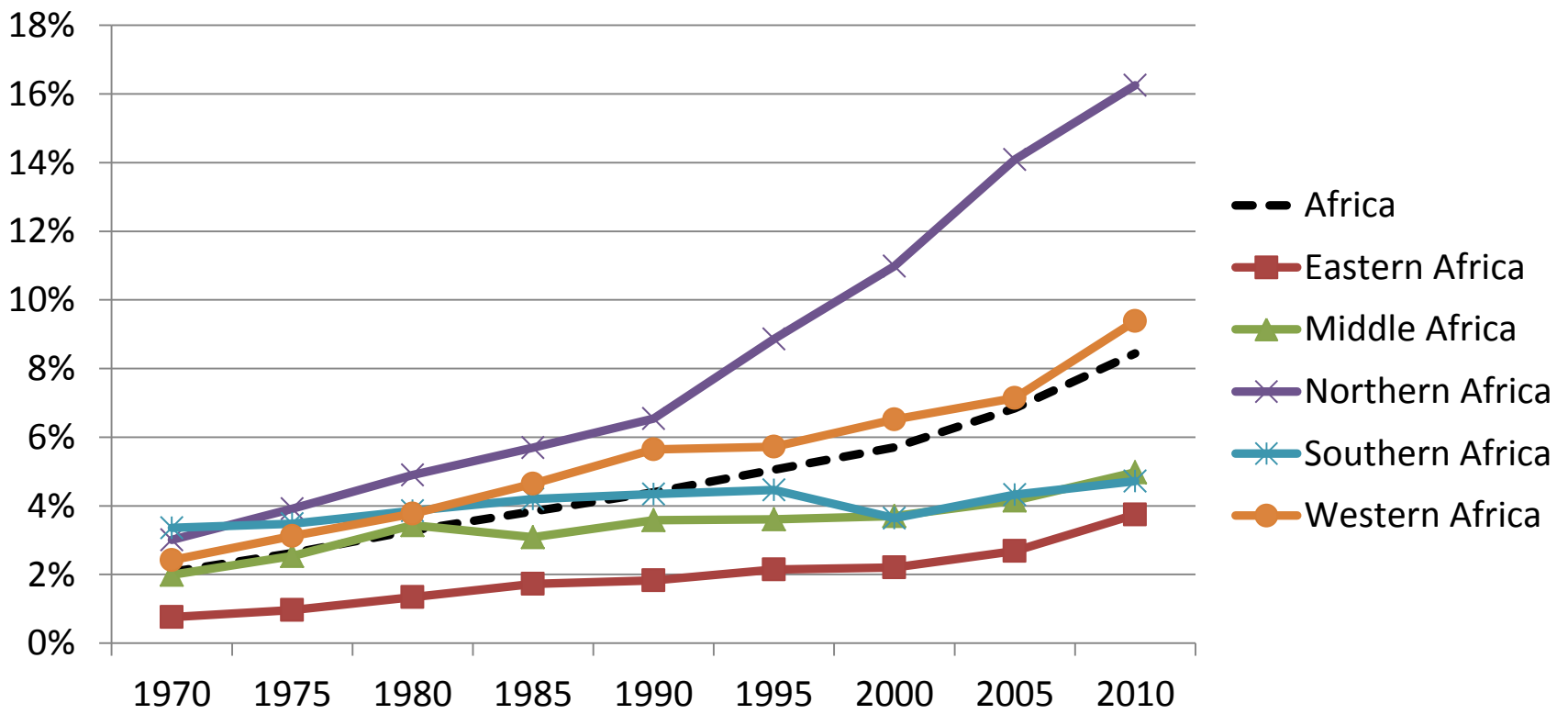
# The gender gap in population, 1990-2010, Africa and sub-regions

## Ratio of male to female population 25-65 with higher education



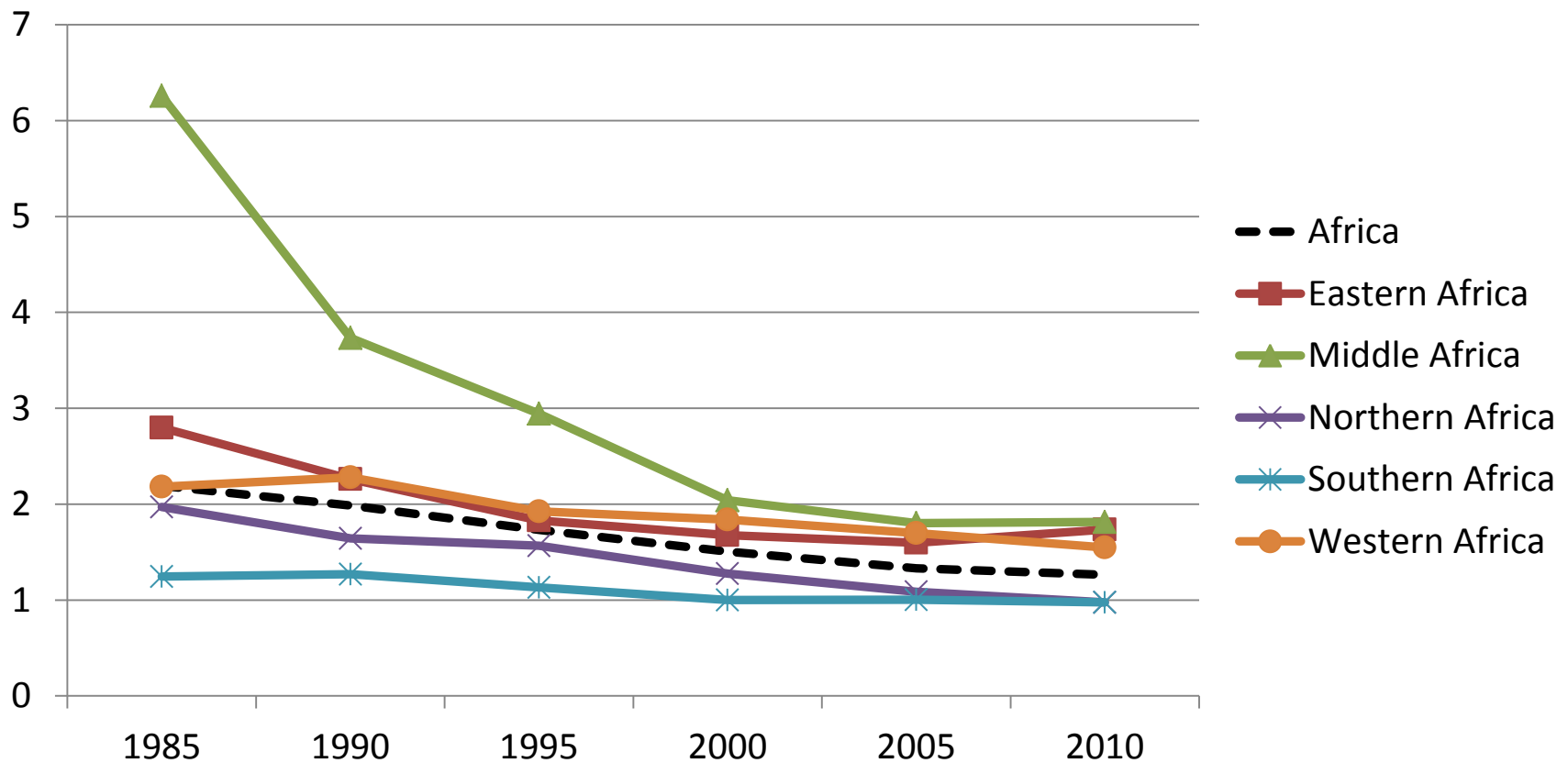
# Change across cohorts, 1970 to 2010, Africa and sub-regions

## Proportion with higher education in the 25-29 age group from 1970 to 2010



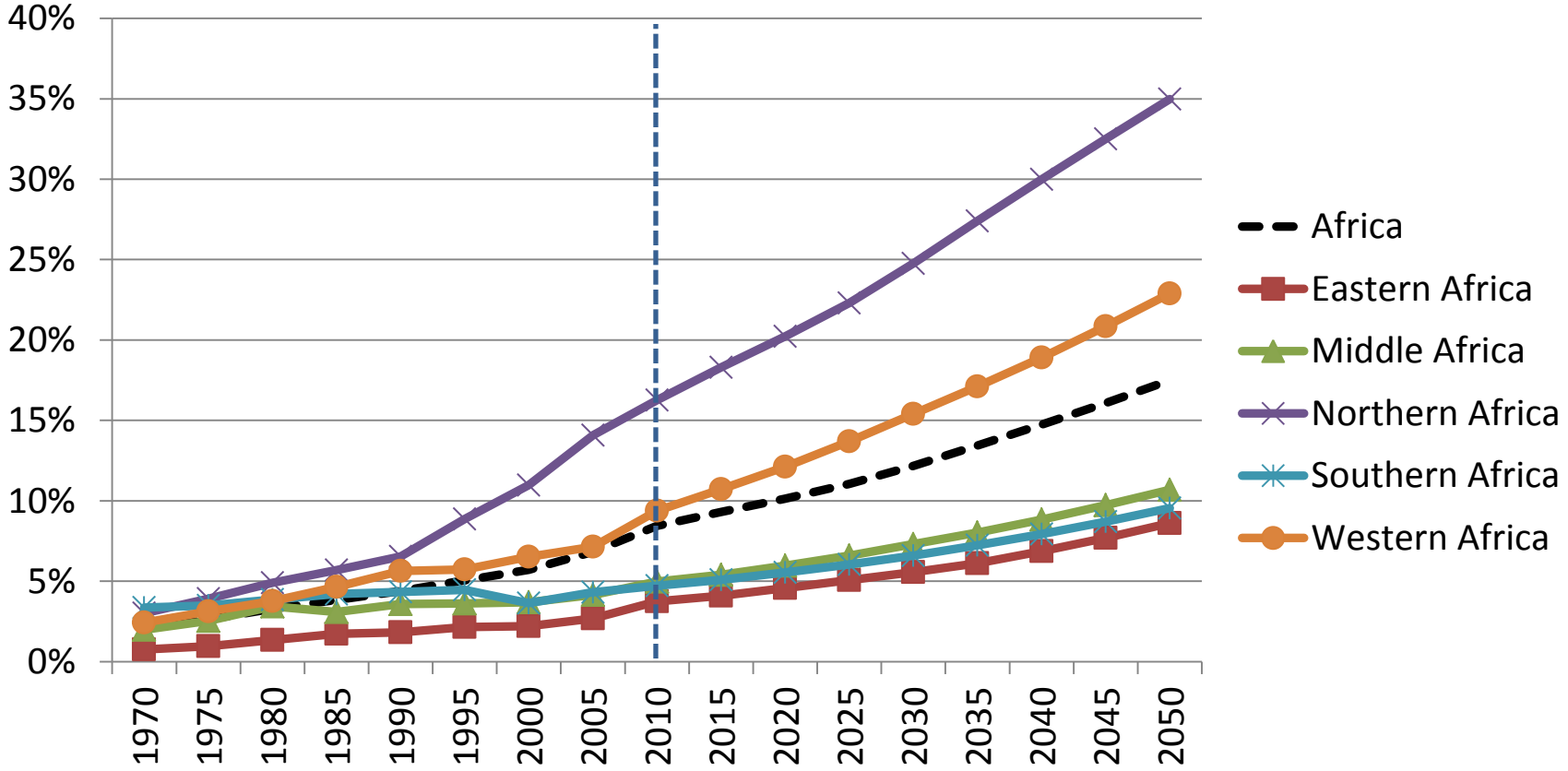
# The gender gap in the 25-29 cohort with higher education, 1985 to 2010, Africa and sub-regions

Ratio of male to female population 25-29 with higher education



# The future of higher education according to global trend scenario, Africa and sub-regions

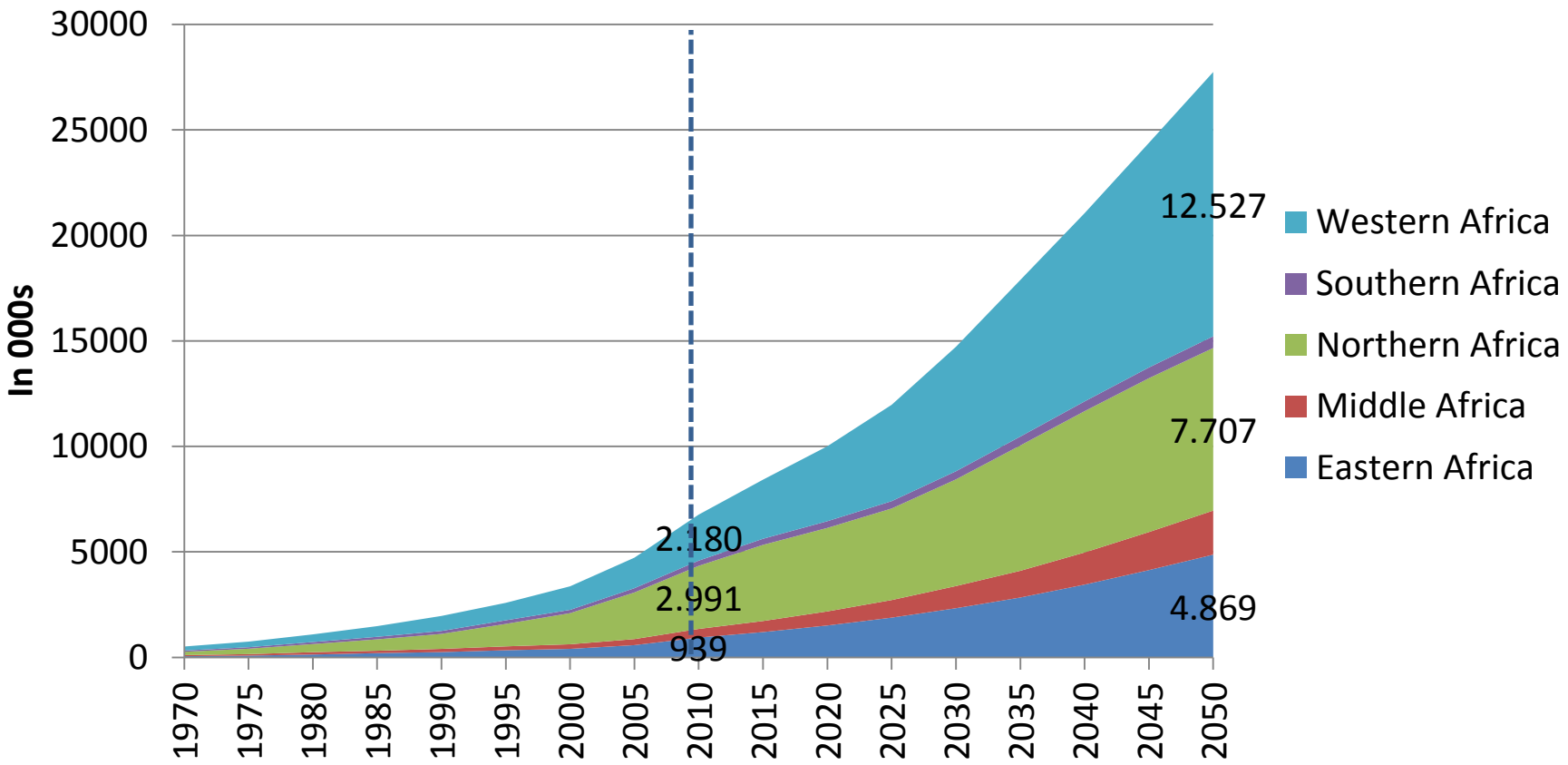
Proportion 25-29 with higher education, 1970-2050



Source: Wittgenstein Centre Data Explorer Version 1.1 (2014)

# The future of higher education according to global trend scenario, Africa and sub-regions

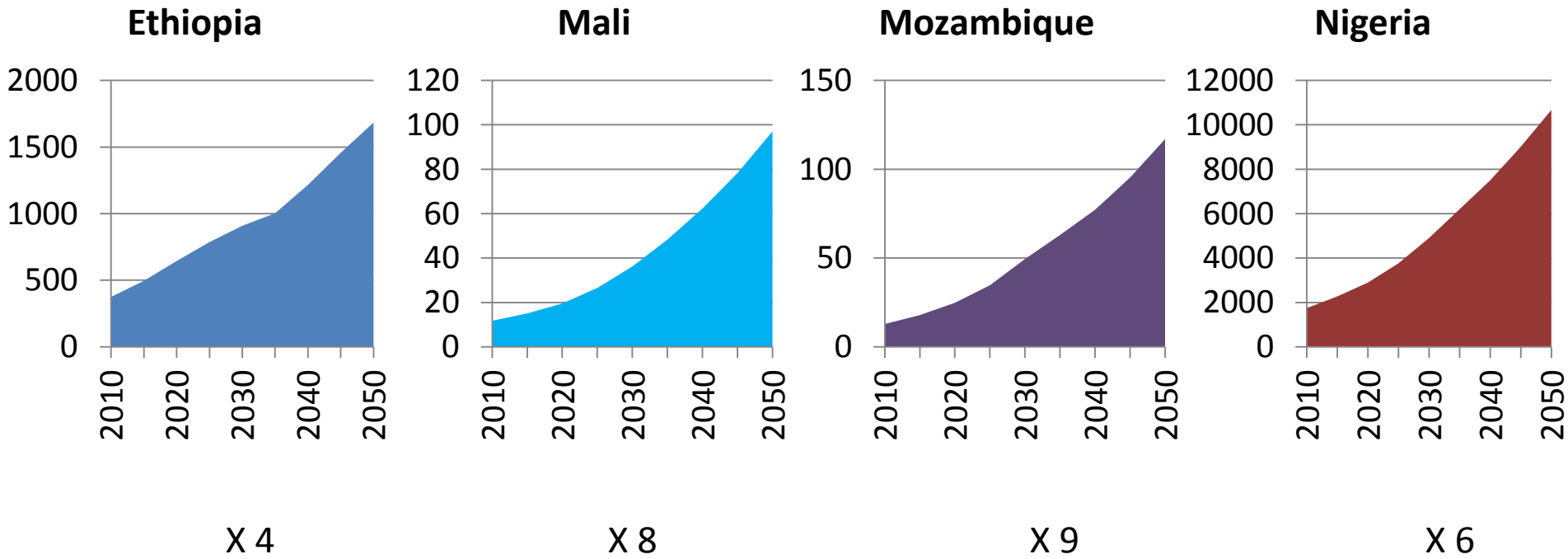
Population 25-29 with higher education, 1970-2050



Source: Wittgenstein Centre Data Explorer Version 1.1 (2014)

# Increase in absolute population with higher education: The example of a few countries

Population 25-29 with post-secondary education in 4 countries, 2010-2050 (global trend scenario)



# Conclusions

- Higher education: Still a small bubble in most African countries;
- The proportion with higher education is increasing by years and cohorts;
- The gender gap is closing but still exists;
- Strong impact of the increase in population & education on the higher education sector.



# Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND  
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

## Anne Goujon

[anne.goujon@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:anne.goujon@oeaw.ac.at)

[goujon@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:goujon@iiasa.ac.at)



International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis  
[www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at)

