

69th CAF

UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa

Mahé, Republic of Seychelles, 2 – 4 July 2026

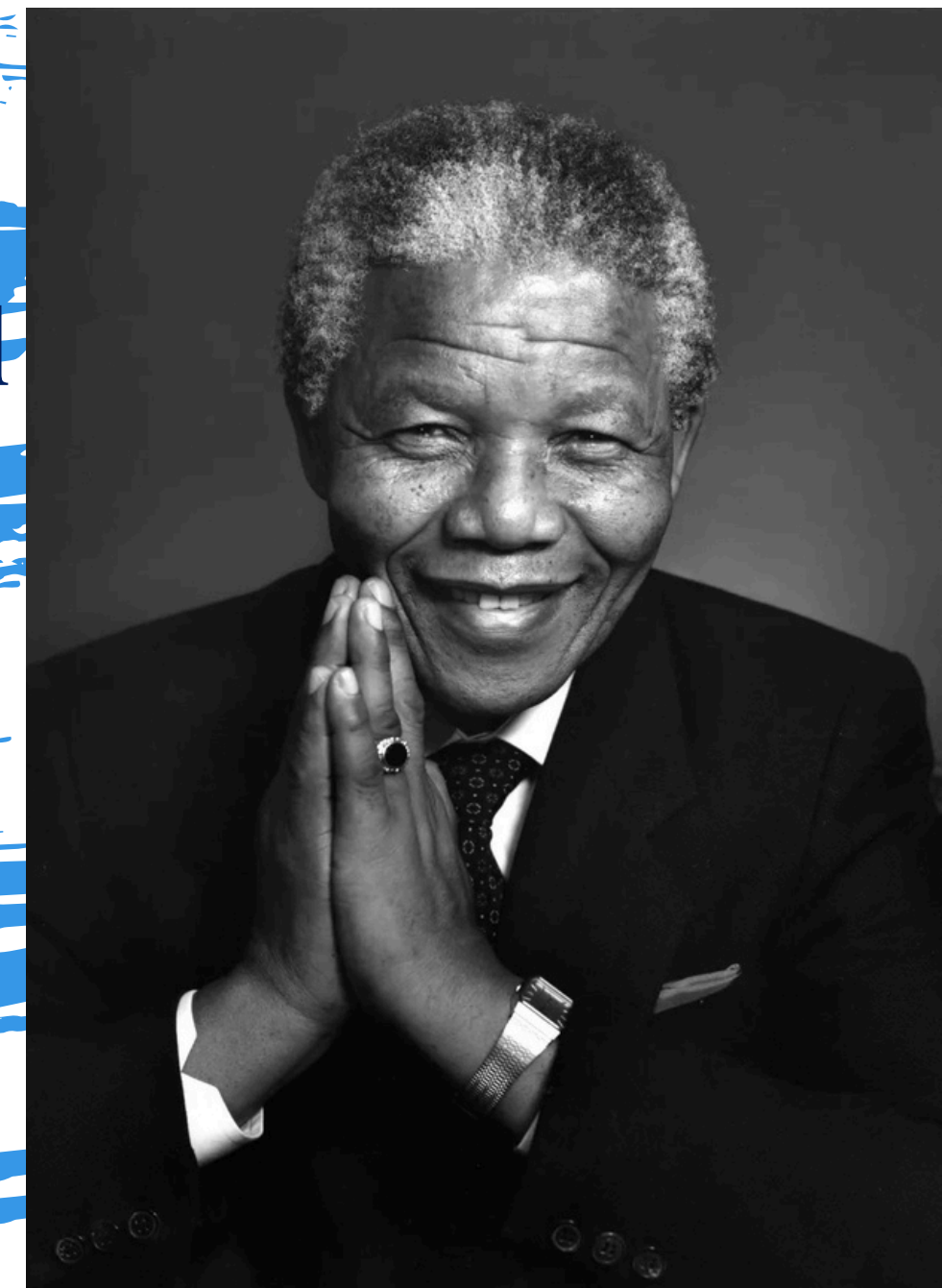
Survey Findings

**Promoting Access to Tourism Education and Human Capital
Development in Africa**

Elcia Grandcourt, UN Tourism Regional Director for Africa

**"Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world."**

Nelson Mandela



UN Tourism Agenda for Africa -Tourism for Inclusive Growth



Key objectives



- **Assess and provide a comprehensive overview**
- **Identify and leverage opportunities**
- **Facilitate the exchange of best practices**
- **Foster coordinate actions across the continent**

Strategic purpose

34 UN Tourism CAF Member States

70%

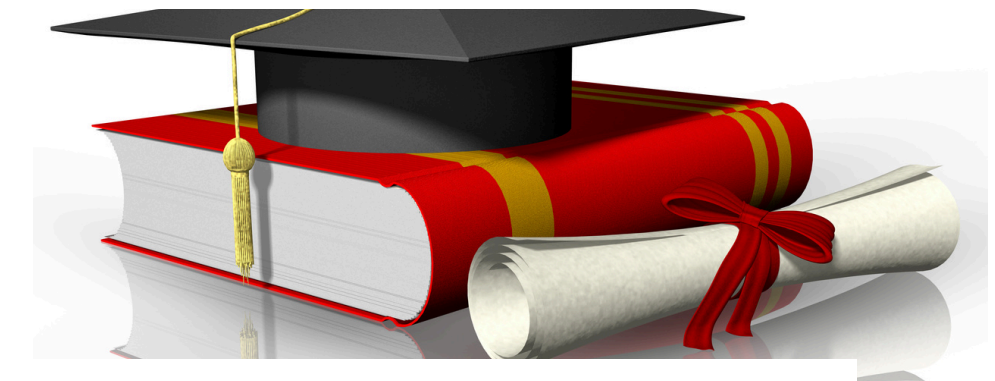
Youthful Population

60%

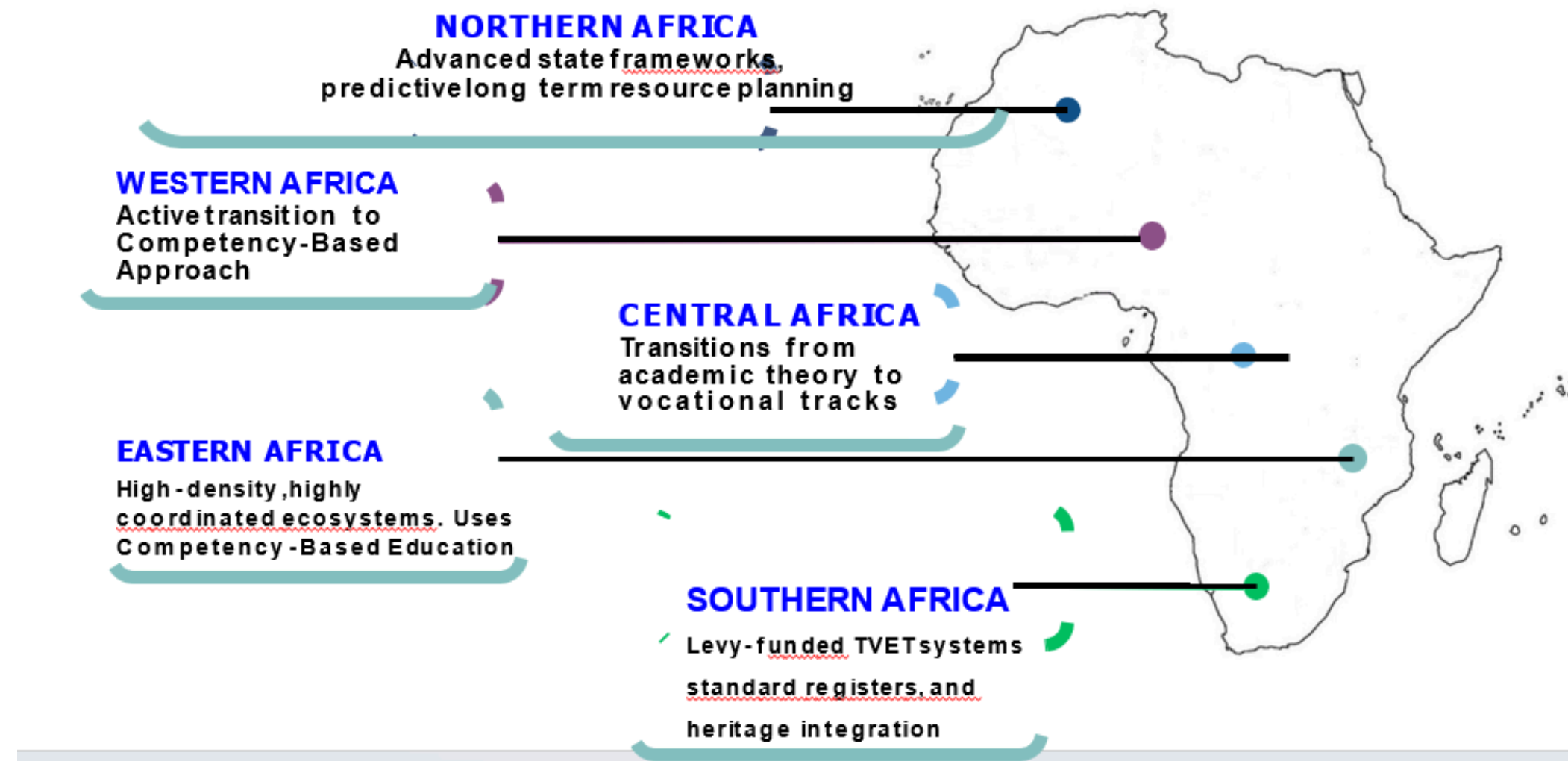
Women in Tourism Workforce

78%





Sub-Regional Trends



Small Island Development states Cluster

- **Geographically Isolated**
- **Focus mainly on local master plans**
- **Dual Approach: resort-apprenticeship**
- **Infrastructure Gaps**

Infrastructure & Technology Realities

MAPPING

SUB-REGION	SELECTED COUNTRY	PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOOTPRINT	DIGITAL / AI INTEGRATION LEVEL
North Africa	Algeria	Network of regional hotel institutes	High (Inter-ministerial startup pacts)
West Africa	Nigeria	NIHOTOUR campuses across geopolitical zones	Medium (Digital hospitality modules)
Central Africa	Cameroon	5 State Universities , technical high schools	High (KOICA-backed AI seminars)
Eastern Africa	Ethiopia	TTI campuses / EASTRIP Regional Center	Medium (Virtual simulation labs)
Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	University departments & Heritage labs	High (Tourism Satellite Account systems)
SIDS Cluster	Comoros	None (No public national hotel school)	Low (Basic connectivity training)

Mapping reveals a sharp technology divide, emphasizing the need for targeted multilateral infrastructure investments.

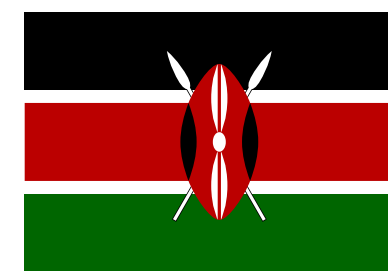
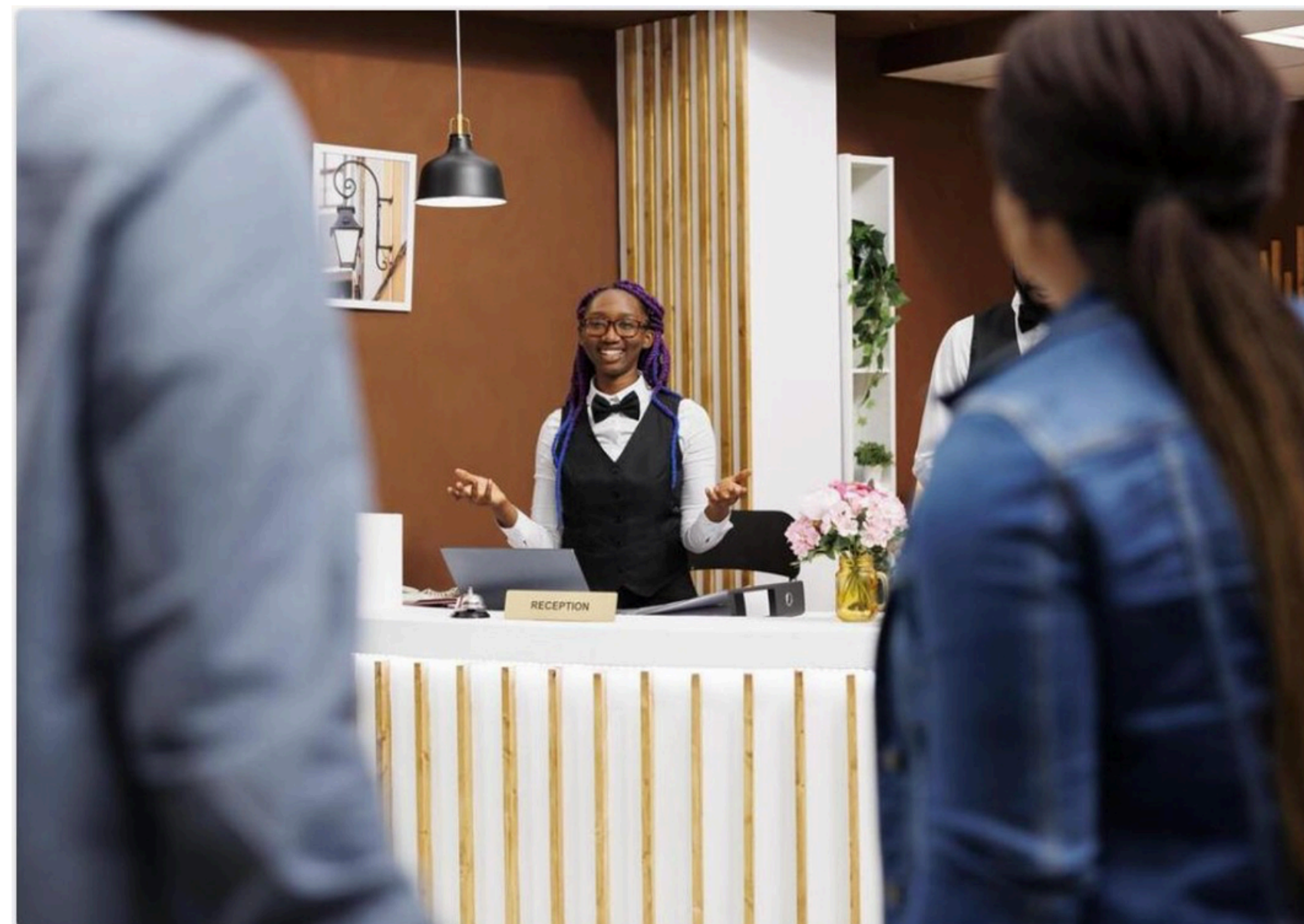
Core Continental Vulnerabilities

- **Access Gaps: Modern Training Institutes are clustered in major capitals**
- **Quality Gaps: Outdated curricula**
- **Systemic Fragmentation: Ministerial Silos**
- **Sectoral Brain Drain**





Success stories





Catching them Young



Actionable Strategic Recommendations

- **End-to-End Pathways:** Legally introduce baseline tourism, heritage, and eco conservation modules into national secondary school systems.
- **Bi-Annual Skills Audits:** Move away from static models. Mandate bi-annual skill requirement diagnostics co-funded by private hospitality blocks.
- **Blended Financing:** Ring-fence specialized local training budgets through legislated tourist and hotel operator training levies.
- **Harmonized Competencies:** Coordinate cross-border qualification registries across regionaleconomic blocks (e.g., ECOWAS ,SADC).



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Thank you

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