



**AFRICA UNITED**

# africa energy forum

Africa. In one place.

17 – 20 June 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

## Post-Forum Report

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## Africa United Leading the Transition

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for joining us in Cape Town, South Africa, for the 27th edition of the Africa Energy Forum (aef) and the Youth Energy Summit (YES!).

The Forum, held for the first time in South Africa, brought the energy community together under the theme “Africa United: Delivering a Bold, United Energy Agenda.” With the G20 hosted by South Africa, aef served as a powerful platform for the continent to present a unified voice and clear priorities to the global stage.

Throughout the week, the Forum facilitated dynamic discussions around accelerating energy projects, improving infrastructure, scaling finance, and achieving electricity access for 300 million people by 2030. Ministers, regulators, developers, and investors came together with a shared focus on delivering tangible progress for Africa’s energy future.

This year EnergyNet hosted YES! alongside aef. With over 6000 youth registered, 3200 attending in person, over 230 expert speakers, 80 sessions over 3 days – covering masterclasses, panel discussions, recruitment presentations, entrepreneurs pitching station and ask the experts sessions it was the biggest gathering of youth in the energy sector in the world.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to all our sponsors, partners, exhibitors, and attendees whose dedication and vision made this year’s edition possible. Your commitment to meaningful dialogue, practical outcomes and long-term partnerships is driving real momentum across the continent and reinforcing Africa’s leadership in the global energy transition.

As we look ahead, we are excited to build on the momentum created in Cape Town.

Thank you once again for joining us for this unforgettable edition.

**The aef Team**

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire team for the outstanding organisation of the Africa Energy Forum. Thank you sincerely for all the support, assistance, and thoughtful arrangements throughout the event. Your professionalism and dedication made our participation smooth and enjoyable. It was an honour to contribute to such a high-level and impactful platform. We look forward to future collaborations and wish you continued success.

**H.E. Honourable Amadou Hott**

former Special Envoy of the President of the AfDB for the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa, Former Minister of Economy, Planning & International Cooperation, Senegal



## Audience Highlights

### Audience in Numbers

**2,741**  
Attendees




**462**  
Developers



**416**  
Speakers



**340**  
Public sector & regulators



**129**  
Sponsors and Exhibitors

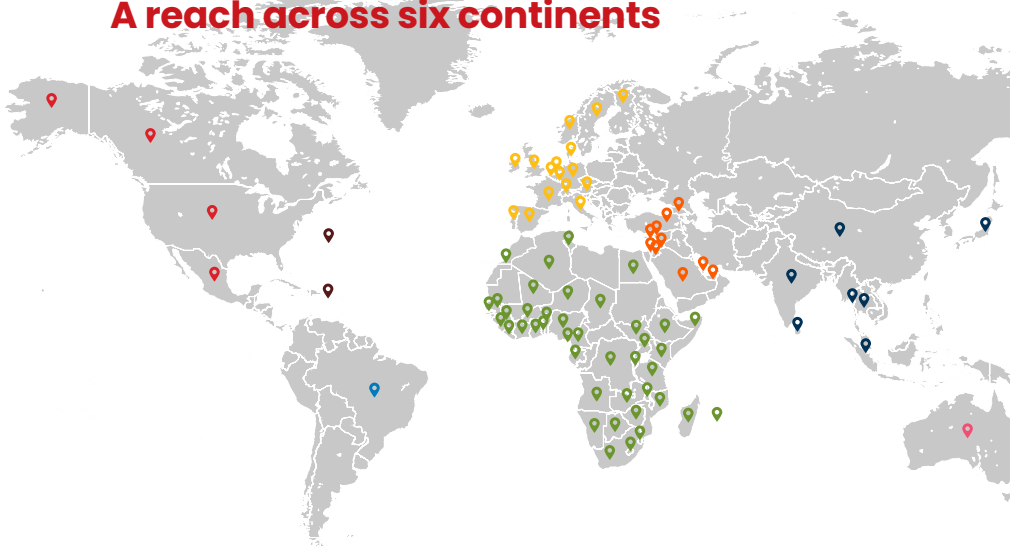


**26**  
Ministers

### Attendance from 81 countries

Algeria	Madagascar
Angola	Malawi
Australia	Mali
Austria	Mauritius
Belgium	Mexico
Benin	Morocco
Bermuda	Mozambique
Botswana	Namibia
Brazil	Netherlands
British Virgin Islands	Niger
Burkina Faso	Nigeria
Burundi	Norway
Cameroon	Palestinian Territory, Occupied
Canada	Portugal
Chad	Qatar
China	Sao Tome and Principe
The Democratic Republic of Congo	Saudi Arabia
Côte d'Ivoire	Senegal
Cyprus	Sierra Leone
Denmark	Singapore
Egypt	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Africa
Finland	South Sudan
France	Spain
Gabon	Sri Lanka
Gambia	Swaziland
Georgia	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Ghana	Tanzania
Guinea	Thailand
India	Togo
Ireland	Tunisia
Israel	Turkey
Italy	Uganda
Japan	United Arab Emirates
Jordan	United Kingdom
Kenya	United States of America
Lebanon	Zambia
Lesotho	Zimbabwe
Liberia	
Luxembourg	

### A reach across six continents

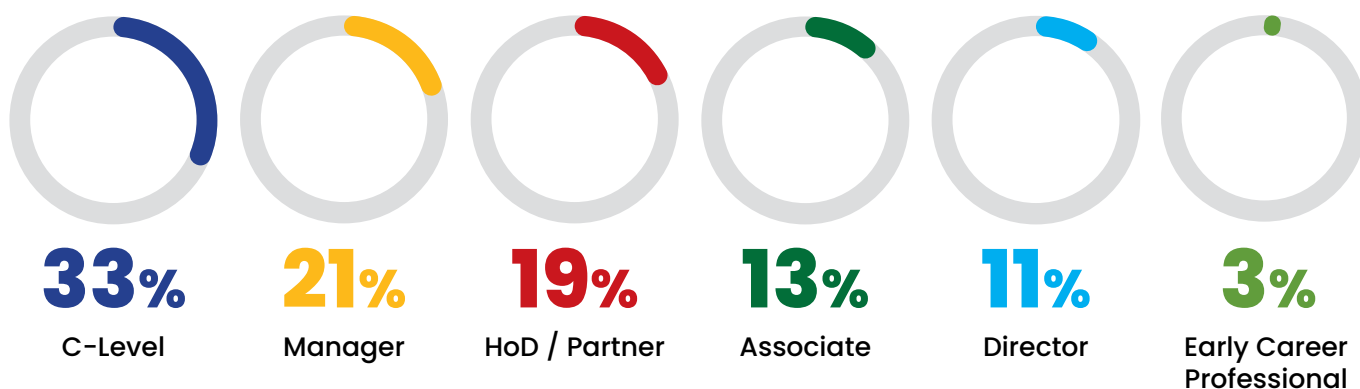


### Top 10 countries

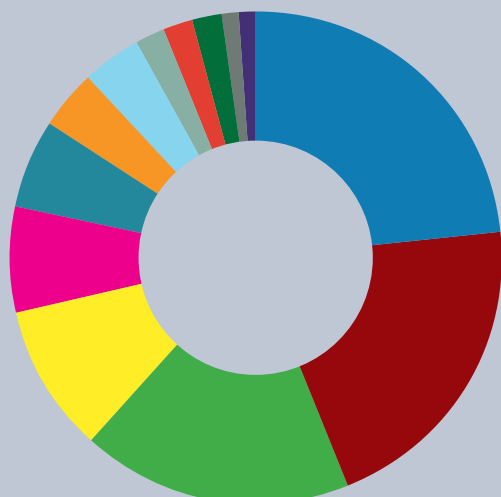
1. South Africa
2. United Kingdom
3. Kenya
4. United Arab Emirates
5. France
6. United States
7. Nigeria
8. China
9. Zambia
10. Ghana

## Audience Highlights

### Attendee Breakdown by Job Role

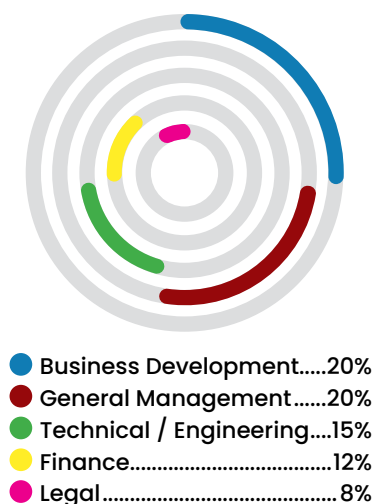


### Audience Breakdown by Industry Sectors



Financial Institutions.....	24%
Developers.....	21%
Professional Services.....	18%
Technology Provider.....	10%
Ministry.....	7%
Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC).....	6%
State Owned Enterprises (SOE, Utility, etc).....	4%
Press / Media.....	4%
Associations / NGO / Research.....	2%
Oil and Gas.....	2%
Regulators.....	2%
Large Scale Energy Users.....	1%
SME / Entrepreneurs.....	1%

### Top 5 Job Functions



### aef Satisfaction Highlights





## Networking App Highlights



# 1,679

CONNECTIONS  
MADE

# 7,552



MESSAGES  
EXCHANGED

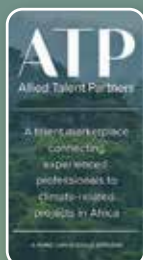
# 1,024

MEETINGS  
CONFIRMED



## aef Networking App Sponsored by Allied Talent Partners

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Allied Talent Partners



Homepage  
Pop-up Ad  
Performance:

# 11,325

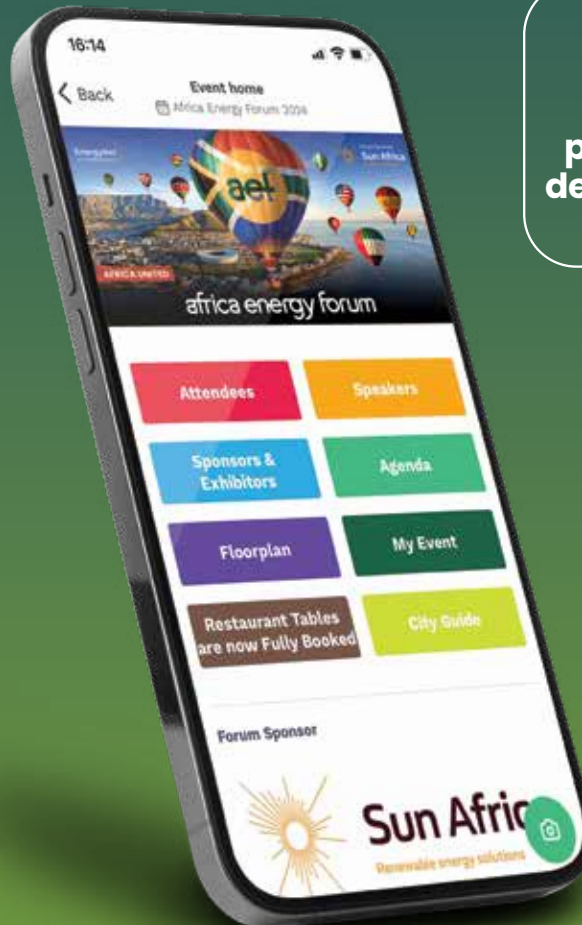
IMPRESSIONS

# 1,728

APP USERS REACHED

# 447

CLICK-THROUGHS  
TO ATP'S WEBSITE



Total of  
**5,487**  
push notifications  
delivered for ATP via  
the aef app



## 2025 Key Moments

The forum provided the platform to interact with regulators, private sector actors, and the knowledge-sharing experience really stood out! ”

**Abu Dekontee Sanso, Director, Technical Regulations, Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission**



### Pioneering a New Model for Financing Renewable Energy in Africa

In a significant step forward for renewable energy in Africa, Serengeti Energy and Kwama Energy, along with four impact lenders, have partnered to develop the Ilute Solar Project, a 32 MWp project located near Sesheke in Western Zambia. This is the first project-financed power venture to supply electricity via the Southern African Power Pool under a market-based PPA with GreenCo Power Services Ltd. Dutch development bank FMO acted as Mandated Lead Arranger for the US\$26.5 million debt package, which includes a subordinated tranche from FMO and Electrifi to buffer SAPP price fluctuations, as well as a senior tranche from FMO, Triodos, and SEFA. The structure mobilises private capital at scale and introduces a replicable, rules-based model for power trading that supports Zambia's energy transition.



## 2025 Key Moments

This strategic partnership with GENESIS marks a new chapter in D-T's mission to expand Saudi innovation into high-impact global markets. By combining our smart infrastructure solutions with GENESIS's proven development platform, we are laying the groundwork for a long-term alliance that will accelerate Africa's clean energy transformation—one project, one community at a time. ”

**Speaking on the Partnership, Khaled Sharbatly, Chief Executive Officer, Desert Technologies**

### **TDB Group signs landmark agreements with leading DRE and clean cooking companies to deliver clean energy access for 3 million people within a year, as part of an initial string of deals**

As part of its ASCENT program, the Trade and Development Bank Group, along with its concessional window, the Trade and Development Fund, in partnership with the World Bank, today unveiled the first suite of financing agreements aimed at accelerating access to distributed renewable energy and clean cooking across Africa. The initiative features a debt facility with Burn Manufacturing and performance-based grants with Ignite Power and Burn Manufacturing. These transactions are expected to benefit three million people within 12 months, including one million by the end of the year, through results-based and debt financing. As a flagship of Mission 300, ASCENT combines commercial and catalytic finance to empower high-growth regional companies and scale clean energy access.

### **Genesis Energy and Desert Technologies Signed a Strategic Collaboration Agreement at the Africa Energy Forum to Accelerate Renewable Energy Access in Africa**

Genesis Energy Holding and Desert Technologies Industries Factory CJSC have formally entered a Strategic Collaboration Agreement at AEF 2025 to accelerate renewable energy access in Africa. Building on a previous MoU, the partnership appoints Genesis's Solar and Storage subsidiary as D-T's Preferred Partner for the African market, with a focus on deploying high-efficiency Solar PV and Battery Storage Systems for mini-grid and utility-scale projects. The collaboration encompasses strategic financing and joint ventures, aligning with Africa's electrification goals and global sustainability priorities.





## 2025 Key Moments



### AMDA and UNDP Partner to Accelerate Minigrid Deployment Across Africa

The United Nations Development Programme and the Africa Minigrid Developers Association have come together to strengthen collaboration in accelerating the deployment of sustainable minigrids across Africa. Supporting the Africa Minigrid Program—a USD 50 million technical assistance initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility—this partnership focuses on technical assistance, capacity building, data and digital innovation, policy advocacy, and resource mobilisation. By combining UNDP's policy expertise with AMDA's technical network, the initiative aims to scale minigrid solutions and improve enabling conditions for energy access in underserved communities.



### A Toast to Overberg: South Africa's 400MW Wind Power Milestone

Red Rocket, Rio Tinto, and Discovery Green recently came together to toast a major clean energy achievement: the next phase of South Africa's Overberg wind farm, advancing toward 400 MW of installed capacity by 2027 — set to become the continent's largest wind project.

More than a project of scale, Overberg is a landmark in private-sector-led renewables. Backed by lenders like DBSA and driven by buyers such as Discovery Green and Rio Tinto's Richards Bay Minerals, the project is helping shape a new energy model under South Africa's wheeling framework.

For RBM, Overberg delivers reliable, round-the-clock renewable power. "We're a 24/7 business," says Bradley Reddy of RBM. "This helps us meet decarbonisation targets while ensuring supply security."

Red Rocket and its partners are proving that large-scale wind energy in Africa is not just possible — it's already happening, with lasting economic and environmental impact.



## 2025 Key Moments

I had good interactions with diverse people, learnt quite a lot from their real-life examples, networked and got more insights on different technologies in energy generation.”

**Regina Ndire Bonya, Senior Projects Accountant, Electricity Generation Company Malawi**



### Globeleq's Red Sands Battery Energy Storage Project Reaches Financial Close

Globeleq and African Rainbow Energy have reached financial close on the 153 MW/612 MWh Red Sands battery energy storage system (BESS) in South Africa – Africa's largest standalone BESS facility to do so. Project agreements were signed by Minister of Electricity and Energy Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, NTCSA Interim CEO Segomoco Scheppers, and Globeleq CEO Jonathan Hoffman at the 2025 Africa Energy Forum in Cape Town.

Debt financing of ZAR 5.4 billion (~US\$300 million) was secured from Absa and Standard Bank. China Energy Engineering Corporation is the EPC contractor, with Sungrow providing BESS technology and long-term service.

Located near Upington, the project spans five hectares and will supply electricity to NTCSA under a 15-year PPA. It will create ~250 jobs during construction and 80 in operation, with a focus on local talent, and includes major grid upgrades to ease congestion.

Globeleq led development and financing and will manage the project through its South African subsidiary. Originally developed by African Green Ventures and acquired in 2023, Red Sands is Globeleq's second utility-scale BESS, adding to its 13 renewable plants across Africa and the Menengai Geothermal project in Kenya.



## 2025 Key Moments



### Challenge Cup Brings High-Energy Football to aef 2025

At aef 2025 in Cape Town, the return of The Africa Challenge Cup provided a high-energy, feel-good close to the conference's third day. After a full Thursday of keynotes, networking, and deals, aef & YES! participants headed to the iconic 55,000-capacity DHL Stadium — a 2010 FIFA World Cup venue.

Rain didn't stop the action. Under floodlights and over two lively matches, players competed on the same pitch once graced by Ronaldo and Messi. Some attendees traded suits for boots, while others cheered from the stands, enjoying surprise talent from the corporate world.

In the opening match, YES! edged aef 4-2 in a goal-filled game with penalties, woodwork, and a dramatic finish. Team Africa then faced Rest of World but fell 2-0 in a result few wanted.







With live music, stadium catering, and the unbeatable Cape Town atmosphere, the night blended connection, collaboration, and genuine fun — a fitting celebration of a successful aef & YES! for the first time in Cape Town.

Well done on superb organisation, our best experience at aef yet! All ran smoothly. We had great engagement at our stand and a number of extremely beneficial meetings which have led to new business. ”

**Alison Diarra, Hogan Lovells**



## Agenda at a Glance

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Opening Ceremony                             |  Generation                                    |
|  Closed Door Roundtables (By Invitation Only) |  Financing Options                             |
|  Africa & G20                                 |  Off-Taker Focus – C&I, Mining, & Data Centres |
|  Africa HardBall                              |  Innovation & Technology                       |
|  M300   |  Solution Provider Workshops                   |
|  Transmission & Interconnection               |  Tech Innovation Theatre                       |

### DAY ONE: TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025

Closed Door Corporate Leadership Roundtable – Accelerating the Pace of Projects

Ministerial Lunch – Closed Door

Closed Door Joint Roundtable – Accelerating the Pace of Projects: Public & Private Sector Come Together

Opening Ceremony

EnergyNet Remarks

Forum Sponsor Welcome Address



Host Country Ministerial Keynote Welcome Address

Continental Keynote Address: What A United Africa Can Achieve

H.E. Honourable Lerato Dorothy Mataboge, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

South Africa Country Spotlight

Celebrating Africa: aef 2025 Carnival Party Hosted by:



**aksa**



# Agenda at a Glance



## DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025

Closed Door Utilities Roundtable – Africa United: Regional Collaboration & Combined Infrastructure to Accelerate Projects

Africa Spotlights	Generation	Transmission & Interconnection	Off-taker Focus: C&I, Mining & Data Centres	Solution Providers Workshop
G20: Africa United Hosted by: G20	Developing the Next Wave of Wind Projects	Case Study: South Africa's Independent Power Transmission (ITP) Programme – Unleashing the Potential  Programme Presentation 	How is C&I and Wheeling Liberalisation Transforming South Africa's Energy Market?  Project Spotlight: <i>Sonvanger Solar Power Plant</i>	Hosted by: UK Department for Business & Trade (UKDBT)   Energising Africa: Unleashing Institutional Capital for Sustainable Growth

**Closed Door Session – Hosted by: UNDP, IFC in collaboration AfDB and AMDA**  
**Fundamentals to Minigrid Market Preparation: What It Takes to Make It Work**



Hosted by: M300  Progress on Mission 300 National Energy Compacts	Accelerating the Next Set of Large-Scale Solar Projects  Project Spotlight	How Can Independent Power Transmission (ITP) Work in Africa?  Project Spotlight <i>Kalumbila– Kolwezi 330kV Interconnection Project (KKIP)</i>	Putting in Place Robust Renewable Energy Ecosystems to Meet Mining Needs  Project Spotlight <i>Bolobedu Project</i>	Hosted by: GET.invest  Private Sector Engagement in Energy Infrastructure Development in Africa
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**Celebrating South Africa's IPP Office – Lunch (By Invitation Only) The aef Restaurant Hosted by:**



Hosted by: M300 Mission 300's Engagement with Private Sector	How the Sector is Embracing Energy Transition  Project Spotlight	Breaking the Barriers for Regional Transmission	Financing Power Projects for Mining	Hosted by: Marsh  Balancing the Grid – Risks and Rewards in Battery Energy Storage
Hosted by: M300 Creating Jobs and Driving Economic Transformation Through Mission 300	<i>Revisiting the Gas to Power Conversation in 2025</i>  Project Spotlight <i>Nant Energy Project</i>	<i>How will Current Large-Scale Projects Evacuate Power?</i>	Global Demand for Critical Minerals: Africa's Big Opportunity	Hosted by: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)   (Closed Door – By Invitation Only) From Pipeline to Partnership: A Strategic Roundtable on Scaling Sustainable Energy Investment in Africa








**Ministerial Town Hall**



## Agenda at a Glance

### DAY THREE: THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2025

#### Closed Door DFI Roundtable

Africa HardBall – Chatham House Rule <i>In partnership with African Energy</i> 	Generation	Financing Options	Off-taker Focus: C&I, Mining & Data Centres	Solution Providers Workshop
Geopolitics: Shifts in the Global Balance of Power and the Impact of a Multipolar World on Business	Modernising and Accelerating Hydropower 	Funding the Gap: Scaling and Accelerating Investment for SDG7 in a Changing Geopolitical Environment	Powering Data Centres: An Opportunity for Africa's Energy Sector  Project Spotlight	Hosted by: AfDB  Sustainable Utility Transformation and Regional Power Trade
<b>Boardroom: SAREM: A Blueprint for Renewable Energy Industrialisation and Skills Development in Africa</b> Hosted by South Africa's Department of Energy and Electricity				 <b>electricity &amp; energy</b> Department Electricity and Energy REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Governance and Compliance in 2025	Hydrogen: Africa's Leap into Global Markets	Energy Trade: Making the Industry More Competitive	Meeting the Demands of The Next Generation of Intensive Energy Users	Hosted by: Neo Themis   (Closed-Door – By Invitation Only) Turning the Tide: How We Propelled Sahofika Back on Track and Beyond
Crossing the Continent: Lobito and Tazara Rail Megaprojects Take Shape	Hosted by: M300 Presentation of Energy Compact for Lesotho	Mitigating Currency Risk	Implementing Digital Infrastructure and AI to Create Efficient Markets	Hosted by: AfDB  A Roadmap for Better, Faster Hydropower Development in Africa
Debt, Currency and Other Macro Economic Crises and the Impact on Africa's Energy Sector	Hosted by M300: Presentation of Energy Compact for Namibia	Financing Gas: Is 2025 the Year Financing is Unleashed?	Unlocking the Potential of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	Hosted by: EBRD  European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  From MWs to GWs: Accelerating Deployment of Renewable Energy in the Region

**The Africa Challenge Cup**  
DHL Stadium



Great location to host aef. The organisation was perfect and high-quality attendees and one-to-one discussions. Looking forward to 2026 with double the number of visitors, hopefully. ”

**Jihad Aoun, Head of Sales Africa – Power Segment, Everllence**

## Agenda at a Glance

### DAY FOUR: FRIDAY 20 JUNE 2025

#### Closed Door Regulators Roundtable

Africa HardBall – Chatham House Rule <i>In partnership with African Energy</i> 	Generation	Innovation & Technology	Solution Providers Workshop
Turning Private Power into Asset Class	Hosted by: M300 Presentation of Energy Compact for Cameroon	Presenting the Most Innovative Renewable Technologies Launched in 2025! Will They Have the Promised Impact?	Hosted by: AfDB  Launch of Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI) for Africa 2024 Report
Energy Justice and Africa's Role in Decarbonisation	Hosted by: M300 Presentation of Energy Compact for Sierra Leone	Digital Transformation in Energy: Aligning Cybersecurity Efforts	Mobilising Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds





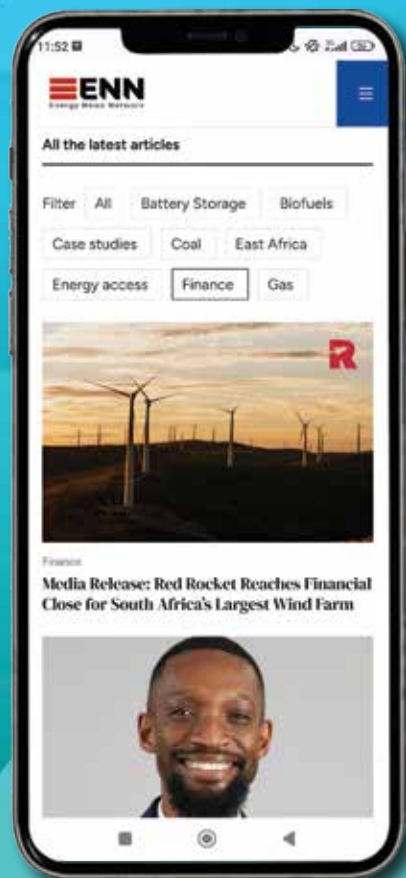


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## INSIDE THE ENERGY AGENDA

# Turning the Tide on a Sector Stagnation

## Energising Energy, Continent-Wide

June 2025 | Ministerial Town Hall, Africa Energy Forum



“Energy needs to be the driver of the economy, but right now is not being given a chance on the continent, despite Africa having the richest abundance of natural resources.” This stark assessment of the power industry in Africa from H.E. Honourable Ibrahim Matola, Minister of Energy, Malawi set the tone for a frank and honest assessment from many of the continent’s key decision-makers as they introspected on an ongoing sector stagnation.

Over the past 10 years, despite a healthy dose of positive intention, projects have moved too slowly and, in many cases, have fallen by the wayside after initial enthusiasm. Most of the continent is implicated in this reality, leading to a situation where it’s difficult to have visibility of where the sector will be in another 10 years from now. The urgency to identify and undo the characteristics that limit project prosperity has hit a new high.

“Investors sometimes come with unrealistic perceptions of risk for projects, and as a result the negotiations start but quickly lead to unrealistic tariffs and those negotiations fail,” proposed H.E. Honourable Eng Felchesmi Mramba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Tanzania as one reason of four.

The Honourable Minister also cited sharp fluctuations in funding priorities associated with different energy sources; engagement







with the “wrong people” at the front end of negotiations with innovators and investors; and – simply – the duration of negotiations, whereby project feasibility changes in the time it takes to reach financial close.

“A reason why projects are often delayed or falling away is a lack of clarity around regulations,” added H.E. Honourable Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Energy Sector Lead & Chairman, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Food Security, Sierra Leone. “There are subjective interpretations of regulations rather than a simple and clear interpretation that everyone can comply with.”

He also concurs with the assessment of economic hindrances, however: “Even with good projects and good regulatory frameworks, financing issues make it difficult to close deals.”

How to change the tide, then?

First, there are success stories to learn from and perhaps even emulate. Algeria serves as one standout example thriving in their manifestation and follow-through of energy projects. To diversify its energy mix and to drive more renewable energy projects, the country has looked to reduce its dependence on IPPs – an effort made possible by enhancing its own industrial capabilities, setting up bankable power purchase agreements, and working closely with neighbours as part of the North African Power Pool.

This latter element is certainly an avenue for countries elsewhere across Africa to follow as they look to overcome that risk perception to global investors.

“Together, we can win. It’s harder for countries on their own, especially smaller ones, to go it alone. And there’s more value for investors when entering regional structures like the East Africa Power Pool,” affirmed H.E. Honourable Veronica Nduva, Secretary General, East African Community (EAC).

What this greater collaboration and coordination will also unlock is pace. And that pace will be critical to overcome the stagnation of the past decade, and to start fulfilling Africa’s undoubted energy potential.

H.E. Honourable Amadou Hott, former Special Envoy of the President of the AfDB Bank for the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa, former Minister of Economy, Planning & International Cooperation, Senegal, concluded: “Let’s focus on top priority deals. Let’s not negotiate tariffs for two years. We waste time trying to get the cheapest deal possible. If there’s a good deal, take it and run. The world is so uncertain. So, as Ministers, if you have a good deal – take it, close it, and run.”

How can Africa energise its energy sector? Work fast, work smart, work together. ■



## INSIDE THE ENERGY AGENDA

# Mission 300 races against time to transform African economies

June 2025 | Africa Energy Forum



**T**he session, moderated by GEAPP's Chianda Njogu, revealed how the initiative is fundamentally reshaping development finance by placing job creation and economic growth at its core rather than treating energy access as an isolated goal.

Andrew Herscovitz, CEO of Mission 300 Accelerator, framed the stakes bluntly: "Mission 300 is not just about energy, it's about jobs. Arguably this is the most important session of aef – we are all here to help create jobs and transform economies."

The numbers paint a sobering picture. TDB Group's Admassu Tadesse highlighted the employment crisis underlying Africa's energy challenge: "The issue really is time. We are in a race against time. We have been talking about access for well over a decade now, and the needle hasn't moved enough. This is where Mission 300 is exciting – it talks about scaling up in a unique way."

With 8-10 million people entering sub-Saharan Africa's labour market annually but only around three million jobs available,

Mission 300's ambitious drive to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030 took on new urgency as development leaders warned they are in "a race against time" to deliver economic transformation alongside energy access.







the World Bank's Yadviga Semikolenova emphasised that energy access must drive business growth. "Mission 300 is not just about connections," she said. "It is about economic transformation and providing opportunities for countries to better themselves – the only way that happens is for businesses to grow and create jobs."

AfDB's Daniel Schroth provided the economic rationale, noting the stark correlation between electricity access and prosperity: "There is clearly a strong correlation between access to energy and economic growth. It's also the case that countries which have almost universal or universal access to electricity typically have 3-5 times more GDP per capita than those which don't."

But Schroth warned against assuming automatic economic benefits from grid connections alone. "Growth doesn't just happen exponentially as you install microgrids. Often we see overestimations of initial demand," he said, highlighting the importance of layering complementary economic ecosystems to drive power usage.

The session showcased innovative approaches to productive energy use. In Uganda, the World Bank's energy access scale-up

project provides credit lines and technical assistance enabling small dairy businesses to purchase productivity-enhancing equipment, with 1,100 appliances purchased in just six months.

GOGLA's Patrick Tonui highlighted off-grid solar's employment multiplier effect, noting that one job in the off-grid renewable industry typically creates four additional jobs in rural areas that desperately need economic opportunities.

Yariv Cohen from Ignite Energy Access positioned energy access as a civil right while demonstrating practical solutions, citing success stories of families sharing solar pumps to enhance farming operations through modular, rapidly scaling solutions.

Mission 300's differentiated approach focuses on high-level government commitment, coordinated development finance institution cooperation, and placing private sector delivery at the centre from project inception. This represents a marked departure from previous energy access initiatives, especially those which have treated private sector involvement as an afterthought. ■



## INSIDE THE ENERGY AGENDA

# Mutual Benefits and Relationship Building in the Current Geopolitical Context

June 2025 | Africa Energy Forum



With the geopolitical tectonic plates shifting in every corner of the world, largely towards a multipolar landscape where it's difficult to know where to look for power and partnership, African energy is finding itself looking both externally and internally for a new way forward.

impact this has had on the African continent, the response from the new administration is that this impact is temporary, amid a shift in focus, from "aid to investment".

**C**hief among these geopolitical shifts has been the US' repositioning in the African context, with the new administration drastically shrinking its USAID operation. However, despite the undeniably negative

The renewed focus champions the idea of "mutual benefit", with a suggestion that new models, directions, doctrines and discussions will come online as the administration settles into its tenure.







A redefined relationship would be based around African solutions to African challenges, with the US aligning its resources to priorities laid out on the continent in a mutually beneficial, sustainable way.

This is “music to the ears” of Africa, and especially South Africa who have been quick to remind how negatively impactful recent US decisions have been so far on the continent, especially citing disruption to programmes designed to aid the Just Energy Transition. Ultimately, withdrawal of USAID actively upset initiatives designed to improve access levels to electricity and indeed the clean cooking challenge that effects one billion Africans.

Skills, capacity, projects, climate change initiatives – all are mentioned as factors under threat should the relationship with the US not recover. However, there are examples where the impacts can somewhat be mitigated by stronger, internal, regional collaboration.

The East African Community (EAC) is one prime example showing how an expanding regional bloc can embolden policy building, trade, knowledge sharing, fair economic practice and

engagement. The promotion of a common market and its customs union is especially pertinent in the context of energy, as it provides a stronger, more collaborative and risk averse platform from which to explore broader international partnerships.

The broader the union and bloc, the more capacity, resources, potential and financial attractiveness it projects to other international powers who can fulfil a vital, final requirement in the form of capital.

The common theme also shared and promoted from this regional perspective is “mutual benefit”. Notions of dependency, knowledge transfer, sustainability and scalability will underpin any new intercontinental relationships formed as Africa chooses potential, new directions post USAID’s withdrawal.

Inevitably, China will continue to pose a strong proposition in this new dynamic, while there is also the issue that not all blocs are as united as the EAC at present. Coups in the SAHEL region are a reminder that while tectonic plates continue to shift across the world, trying to lock-in a revised global model will also be dependent on Africa’s own shifting geopolitical situation. ■



## INSIDE THE ENERGY AGENDA

# Mission 300's Engagement with the Private Sector

June 2025 | Africa Energy Forum



Mission 300's ambition to bring electricity access to 300 million Africans by 2030 was one of the headline themes at aef 2025. But during Thursday's session, "Mission 300's Engagement with the Private Sector," it became evident that the real test lies in translating that ambition into action.

With approximately 130 projects in its portfolio, Mission 300 could reach its full target if these are implemented effectively. However, as Andrew Herscowitz, CEO of the Mission 300 Accelerator, pointed out, "Just because you have projects doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to move forward on time... the private sector is the most important part of Mission 300, because it doesn't work without it."

Private sector contributions were at the forefront throughout the discussion. Off-grid innovators such as d.light and CrossBoundary Group were praised for their leapfrogging models in rural electrification. Meanwhile, the launch of Zafiri—a \$1 billion investment vehicle developed by the World Bank and the African Development Bank—emerged as a key development. Zafiri is set to support mini-grids and solar home systems across sub-Saharan Africa, with the potential to connect 30 million people by 2030.

Another standout case was Weza Power in Burundi, Africa's first national-scale private electricity distribution company. With







only 12% of the country's population connected to electricity, Weza's model—combining commercial equity, concessional finance, and donor support—could lift nine million people out of energy poverty.

Nevertheless, persistent challenges were candidly acknowledged. Financing remains a barrier, especially in local currencies. High interest rates and affordability concerns persist at the end-user level. Yet the atmosphere remained optimistic, bolstered by the Dar es Salaam Declaration and growing alignment between ministries across energy, finance, and planning.

As Wale Shonibare of the AfDB noted, African ministers are increasingly acting as investment promoters, courting private capital with urgency and clarity.

The message was clear: if Mission 300 is to succeed, it will be through bold partnerships, smart financing models, and a united drive to scale. And if aef 2025 is any indication, that momentum has already begun. ■





## INSIDE THE ENERGY AGENDA

# Mission 300 Energy Compacts

## Cameroon, Namibia, Lesotho, and Sierra Leone Lead the Change

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As attention shifted from the private sector to national leadership, aef 2025 unveiled four bold National Energy Compacts under the Mission 300 initiative. Cameroon, Namibia, Lesotho, and Sierra Leone each presented detailed frameworks designed to achieve universal electricity access and long-term energy sustainability by 2030.

**N**amibia positioned itself as a renewable energy powerhouse, with plans to increase the share of renewables from 54% to 70% and raise electricity access to 70%. Despite the geographical challenge

of serving a widely dispersed population, Namibia's strategy is underpinned by strong regulatory frameworks and an investor-friendly environment. Access to clean cooking and a tripling of private capital mobilisation are also key targets—the long-term goal: regional leadership in renewable energy exports.

Lesotho, starting from just 53% electricity access and even lower rural coverage, presented a transformative five-pillar plan. This includes grid and mini-grid expansion, private sector engagement, cross-border trade, and utility reform. With targets of 100% electricity and clean cooking access, and 225MW of added renewable capacity, Lesotho's approach is ambitious yet grounded in clear institutional reforms and investment readiness.







Cameroon unveiled a \$13 billion roadmap to raise electricity access from 74% to 100% by the end of the decade. The plan confronts longstanding sector inefficiencies—from transmission

losses and frozen tariffs to grid instability—and focuses heavily on hydro, solar, and gas resource development. With a strong emphasis on private sector incentives and off-grid electrification, Cameroon is targeting comprehensive energy sector reform and mobilisation of investment.



Sierra Leone, one of the first two countries chosen under Mission 300, presented a compact grounded in preparation and leadership. Building on foundational work from the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the PI-CREF initiative, Sierra Leone has developed a clear, data-driven Energy Transition and Green Growth Plan. Strategic partnerships with IRENA and SEforALL have helped build a strong pipeline of bankable clean energy projects, reinforcing the country's status as an emerging energy leader.

These compacts are more than plans—they are declarations of intent. Each country has tailored its approach to its specific context, yet all share the same overarching goal: to deliver energy access sustainably and inclusively by 2030. Mission 300, it seems, has moved from rhetoric to real action. ■



## INSIDE



Number of new articles  
since launch

32



Article views  
since launch

3,019



Let's Talk Energy & Live  
Interviews

35



Unique visitors  
since launch

21,997



Most readers come from ...

South Africa, US, UK,  
Kenya, India



Top articles categories

Finance, Technology,  
News



Interaction Rate

72% Engagement



Read Full  
Stories

Your voice. Your energy.  
Your deals.







## In the Media

### Ahead of the Forum



#### Overall Media Coverage



**566**  
news/articles

your Daily News  
Powered by  
**ENN**  
Energy News Network

#### aef Average Reach



**100,000+**  
Total Impressions



**27,779**  
Total Views

#### YES! Average Reach

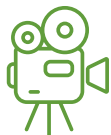


**100,000+**  
Total Impressions



**9,462**  
Total Views

#### Onsite Impact



**82**

press attendees



**10**

Media Partners



**82**

stories



**30**

interviews

#### Media houses were spread out to represent various countries, including:

**Morocco:** Morocco World News

**Togo:** Financial Afrik, Togo Business News

**Nigeria:** BusinessDay, The Eagle, Nigerian Tribune, New National Star, VON, Per Second News, Galaxy Television

**South Africa:** SABC, Newzooom Afrika, Engineering News, ESI, IOL, eNCA



**Egypt:** Al Ahram

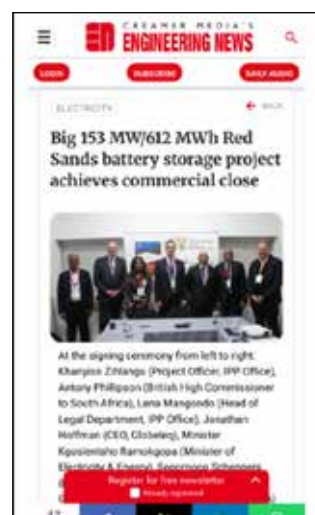
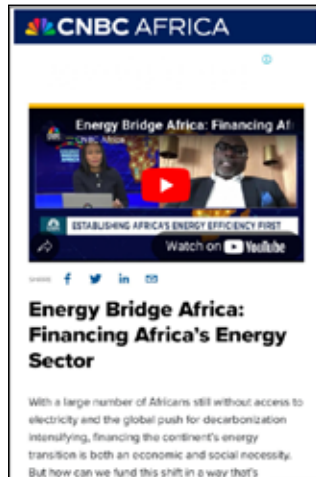
**Kenya:** The Standard, KTN, Daily Nation, The East African

**Tanzania:** The Citizen, Mwananchi

**Rwanda:** Rwanda Today

**Zambia:** Financial Insight

## Press Highlights







## Photo Gallery







## Spotlight on Leadership







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# Upcoming Events:



**Zimbabwe-Zambia Energy Projects Summit**  
Zambia | 19-21 November 2025



**West Africa Energy Cooperation Summit**  
Ghana – Accra | 3-4 December 2025



**Powering Africa Summit**  
US – Washington DC | March 2026



**Africa Energy Forum**  
Dubai | June 2026



**Youth Energy Summit**  
**YES! Summit at WA-ECS** Ghana – Accra | December 2025  
**Youth Energy Summit South Africa** – Cape Town | April 2026

