AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

AESTAP
Africa Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program

AESTAP Status Report 2025

Unlocking Africa's Energy Potential Through Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is the bedrock of private-sector engagement in energy—it de-risks projects, fortifies regulatory frameworks, and builds institutional capacity, paving the way for the billions in capital we need to power Mission 300 and bring electricity to 300 million Africans

Dr. Kevin Kariuki,
Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank

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ACRONYMS

AEMP	Africa Energy Market Place
AEP	Africa Energy Portal
AfDB	African Development Bank
AfSEM	African Single Electricity Market
ANCEE	African Network of Centers of Excellence in Electricity
AESTAP	African Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CAR	Central African Republic
CEN	Central Eléctrica da Namaacha
CMP	Continental Power System Masterplan
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DBMS	Database Management System
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
EDM	Electricidade de Moçambique
ERI	Electricity Regulatory Index
EKSERB	Ekiti State Electricity Regulatory Bureau
ESRI	Energy Sector Regulatory Index
FAPA	Fund for African Private Sector Assistance
JET	Just Energy Transition
KOAFEC	Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NERC	Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
NIEP	National Integrated Electricity Policy
PV	Photovoltaic
RAERESA	Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEFA	Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa
SEPP	State Electricity Priority Plan
SAPP	Southern African Power Pool
TA	Technical Assistance
ZiZaBoNa	Zimbabwe–Zambia–Botswana–Namibia (regional transmission project)

FOREWORD

Wale Shonibare,
Director, Energy Financial Solutions,
Policy & Regulation, African Development Bank

"At its core, AESTAP is about creating the conditions for transformative change: enabling governments and utilities to plan, regulate, and operate better. Most importantly, it's about fostering the trust and clarity needed to mobilize private investment at scale."

For over two decades, the African Development Bank has committed over USD 29 billion to the enhancement of Africa's energy sector. These substantial investments have facilitated the expansion of renewable energy capacity, bolstered transmission and distribution infrastructure, and provided millions with access to electricity, thereby profoundly improving lives and fostering opportunities across the continent.

However, despite these advancements, the scale of the challenge we face is daunting. More than 600 million Africans remain without access to electricity. Bridging this significant gap necessitates more than mere financial resources; it requires comprehensive systemic reforms to address upstream bottlenecks, including fragmented policies, under-resourced institutions, and regulatory uncertainty.

In this context, the role of technical assistance becomes paramount. AESTAP is proving to be an invaluable asset in delivering meaningful and measurable impact across the continent. The development of the Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI) is a testament to this success, having guided reforms in over 30 countries since its inception in 2018. Its credibility has been further solidified by the World Bank's adoption of its methodology in 2022 to launch a Global ERI covering 82 non-OECD countries.

Through this flagship program, we have facilitated policy dialogues in nations such as Nigeria and Tanzania, leading to the formulation of comprehensive national energy policies and compacts. The program actively supports a diverse array of initiatives, including battery energy storage in Nigeria, green hydrogen projects in Mauritania, and Just Energy Transition strategies in Tunisia and Senegal. Additionally, we have developed robust database management systems in Liberia, Ghana, Uganda, and Nigeria, thereby enhancing utility performance and promoting transparency.

Moreover, AESTAP is dedicated to strengthening regulatory capacity in Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, and Lesotho, fostering an environment that is more conducive to private sector investment.

AESTAP is instrumental in achieving the Bank's Mission 300 objective, which aspires to provide electricity and clean cooking solutions to 300 million Africans by 2030. By translating Energy Compacts into actionable reform plans, AESTAP ensures that national ambitions are transformed into feasible, scalable solutions.

These significant strides would not have been achievable without the vital support of our partners and donors. Your contributions are essential for deepening and extending AESTAP's impact across Africa.

As we look forward, AESTAP remains a pivotal tool in advancing Africa's energy transition, driven by innovation, collaboration, and a shared commitment to a sustainable and inclusive energy future. We invite you to join us in reinforcing this impactful initiative, ensuring that together we can address the energy challenges facing our continent and create enduring benefits for all.

SECTION 1

UNDERSTANDING AESTAP

AESTAP in brief

AESTAP is a flagship technical assistance initiative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) aimed at strengthening energy systems, accelerating access to electricity, and facilitating a just energy transition across Africa. With nearly 600 million people still lacking electricity, AESTAP provides the essential support needed to unlock investments and stimulate reform in the energy sector.

AESTAP delivers targeted technical assistance (TA) to countries and regional institutions, addressing policy, regulatory, and utility-level challenges that hinder progress. Its approach is programmatic, demand-driven, and phased, tailored to each country's readiness for reform, national priorities, and previous engagement with the Bank.

The initiative offers critical upstream technical assistance necessary to unlock investment, strengthen institutions, and implement effective reforms that enhance the robustness and sustainability of energy systems. AESTAP is structured around five components.

Funding for AESTAP primarily comes from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), which has committed USD 17 million to date. This funding supports technical assistance projects aligned with national priorities and the country's readiness for reform. In addition to SEFA, AESTAP benefits from strategic partnerships with the Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) and the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC), which have supported the digitalization of regulatory authorities through the deployment of Regulatory Database Management Systems (RDBMS) in Uganda, Liberia, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Ghana.

By addressing knowledge gaps, regulatory bottlenecks, and capacity constraints, AESTAP lays the foundation for a new era of energy development in Africa—one driven by renewable energy, regional integration, and participation from the private sector.

AESTAP 4 pillars

01. Knowledge and policy dialogue
02. Power sector policy, regulation, and planning
03. Sustainable utility transformation
04. Regional integration and power markets

SOURCES OF FUNDING AESTAP

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND FOR AFRICA

USD17 MILLION

AFRICA ENERGY TRANSITION CATALYST	MULTINATIONAL AESTAP I	AESTAP NIGERIA
USD10.28 MILLION	**USD5.5 MILLION**	**USD1 MILLION**
Support regional and national Just Energy Transition initiatives in Botswana, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Senegal and Mauritania, and prevides technical assistance to AFREC	Technical assistance to nine countries and regional institutions	Advancing national-level energy sector reforms

PLANNED ADDITIONAL SEFA SUPPORT

AESTAP-CDMUs	AESTAP Compact Implementation
USD 1 MILLION	**USD 9 MILLION**

ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

FAPA & KOAFEC

SECTION 2

AESTAP ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Key activities under Pillar I
Data, Knowledge, and Policy Dialogue

The Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI) 2024
The 2024 edition of the ERI is now out, revealing encouraging progress across Africa's electricity sectors. Many countries have taken significant steps by updating regulatory frameworks and implementing cost-reflective tariffs—measures that are enhancing energy access, strengthening utility performance, and boosting investor confidence.

Produced with support from AESTAP, the ERI evaluates electricity regulatory frameworks in 43 African countries. It measures regulatory governance, substance, and outcomes to guide ongoing reforms and promote more effective, transparent, and accountable regulation.

The Africa Energy Portal (AEP)
The AEP, which was launched in November 2018, serves as a comprehensive platform for energy sector news, data, and insights across Africa. Its main goal is to provide open access to accurate information for stakeholders, fostering knowledge-sharing and discussion to de-risk and promote sustainable development in the African energy sector. Most of its recent revamp was supported by AESTAP.

AEMP Engages 24 Countries do Drive Energy Reform
Since 2018, the Africam Energy Market Place (AEMP) has supported 24 countries through nine editions, helping advance energy sector reforms, attract private sector investment, and unlock regional cooperation. For its session in Abidjan to recent editions in Nigeria and Tanzania, AEMP offers a platform for high-level dialogue between governments, investors, and partners.

Themed sessions have tackled priorities like clean cooking, power sector reforms, and regional trade - aligning with AfDB's Mission 300 goal to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030. AEMP continues to turn national ambitions into actionable, bankable energy projects.

8th Africa Energy Market Place (AEMP), Nigeria
The 8th AEMP led to several key outcomes for Nigeria's energy sector. Chief among them was the drafting of the NIEP-SIP, designed to operationalize the 2023 Electricity Act. The AfDB also proposed a USD1 billion support package aimed at advancing power sector reforms, expanding the national grid, and accelerating the Desert to Power initiative. Co-hosted by the AfDB and Nigeria's Ministry of Power in Abuja in May 2024, the event focused on charting a sustainable energy future for Nigeria.

9th Africa Energy Market Place (AEMP), Tanzania
The 9th AEMP, held in October 2024 in Tanzania, led to several major outcomes. It informed the development of Tanzania's national Energy Compact and helped shape the agenda of the January 2025 Presidential Energy Summit. The event also marked the launch of Tanzania's 2024–2034 National Renewable Energy Strategy, a key milestone in the country's clean energy transition. Co-hosted by the AfDB, partners, and Tanzania's Ministry of Energy, the 9th AEMP brought together stakeholders to accelerate progress on clean cooking and energy access goals.

Support to African Power Utilities Association
The African Power Utilities Association has received targeted support to enhance its role in advancing energy sector reforms and utility performance across Africa. AESTAP has facilitated technical assistance, knowledge-sharing platforms, and capacity-building workshops aimed at improving utility governance, regional power trade readiness, and regulatory engagement. This collaboration strengthens APUA's ability to serve as a continental voice for utilities and supports its contribution to the Bank's broader Mission 300 goal of expanding electricity access to 300 million Africans by 2030.

Key impacts
AfDB's Electricity Regulatory Index Accelerates Energy Reforms Across Africa

The ERI which was launched in 2018, has become a cornerstone in accelerating energy sector reforms across Africa. As a benchmarking and diagnostic tool, the ERI helps countries evaluate and improve their electricity regulatory frameworks, which is essential for expanding energy access, enhancing efficiency, and unlocking investment. With over 600 million Africans still lacking electricity, the ERI is a timely instrument for guiding countries toward sustainable and inclusive power systems.

"*The ERI is more than a scorecard - it is a catalyst for transformation,*" said Wale Shonibare, AfDB's Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy, and Regulation. "*It empowers regulators to drive the reforms Africa needs to unlock investment and expand access to affordable, reliable electricity.*"

Countries like Kenya have used ERI recommendations to reform their energy policies. According to John Mutua, Director for Economic Regulation at Kenya's Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), "*ERI has been instrumental in helping regulators across the continent improve how we regulate the sector and fulfill our mandates.*" Citing the Energy Act of 2019 and tariff reforms, Mutua noted how ERI helped streamline regulation and support cost-reflective pricing.

In Egypt, the ERI has guided reforms such as improved stakeholder engagement and transparency. Sherein Abdalla of the Egyptian Electricity Regulatory Agency shared that, "*Our participation in ERI helped us benchmark our progress, improve our website for accessibility, and enhance our technical frameworks.*"

Togo also credits ERI with helping shape its regulatory agenda. Abide Bataba-Agamah from the Togolese Energy Regulatory Agency said, "*ERI has helped us identify priority reforms, improve transparency by publishing regulatory decisions, and develop key documents such as tariff methodologies.*"

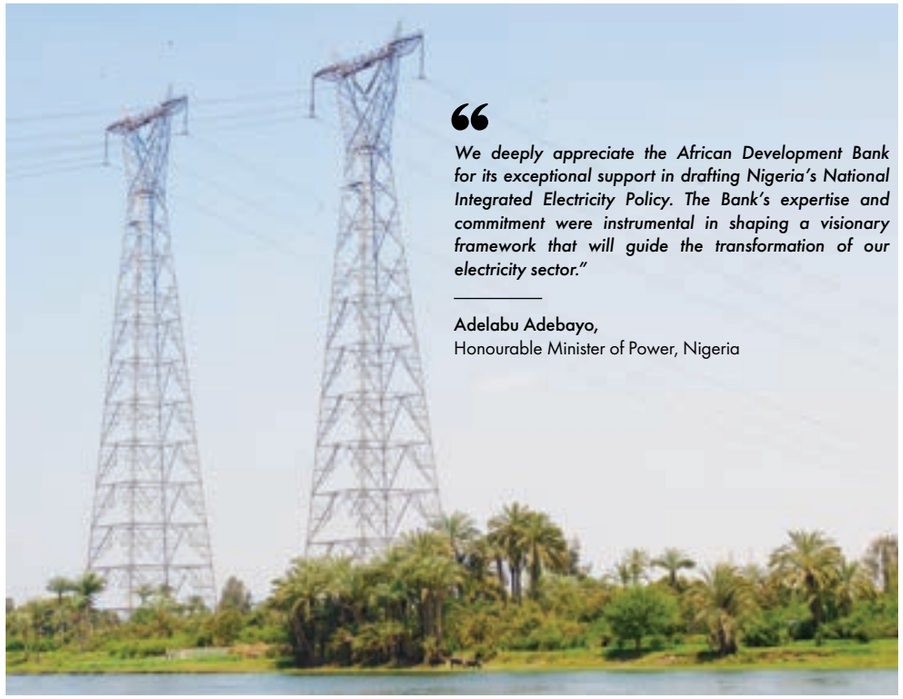
These success stories support the AfDB's broader goal to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030. However, challenges remain, particularly around ensuring regulatory independence and integrating climate considerations into policy. As Abdalla admitted, "*We still face issues around regulatory independence.*"

Mutua added that political coordination can be tough: "*Balancing the interests of the executive, parliament, and treasury is complex - but we are addressing these challenges.*"

Overall, the ERI is making tangible contributions to Africa's energy transition by empowering regulators with the tools, data, and guidance to enact reforms that improve energy access and sector governance.

Key impacts

Nigeria approves landmark National Electricity Policy



> *We deeply appreciate the African Development Bank for its exceptional support in drafting Nigeria's National Integrated Electricity Policy. The Bank's expertise and commitment were instrumental in shaping a visionary framework that will guide the transformation of our electricity sector."*
>
> **Adelabu Adebayo,**
> Honourable Minister of Power, Nigeria

Nigeria has officially approved the National Integrated Electricity Policy (NIEP), setting a clear path for a more decentralized, reliable, and sustainable electricity sector. Signed into effect by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on May 5, 2025, the policy is a significant milestone in the country's broader energy sector reforms.

The policy was developed with technical assistance from the AfDB through its AESTAP. The Bank worked closely with Nigeria's power sector institutions over several months to provide strategic guidance, support stakeholder engagement, and ensure the policy reflects the realities and needs of the country's electricity landscape.

The NIEP is designed to operationalize the Electricity Act of 2023, which grants states the authority to regulate electricity within their territories. This shift is expected to enhance local accountability, attract private sector participation, and expand electricity access, especially in underserved rural areas.

Through its engagement, AfDB contributed to the design of a robust framework that addresses long-standing structural issues, supports regulatory reforms, and paves the way for future investments in the power sector.

The Bank reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the implementation of the NIEP through continued technical assistance, capacity-building, and investment mobilization - ensuring the policy delivers practical results for millions of Nigerians.

Key impacts

Power devolution in action in Nigeria

As Nigeria moves to implement the 2023 Electricity Act - decentralizing power regulation to subnational governments - the African Development Bank (AfDB), through its SEFA-funded AESTAP, is playing a pivotal role in ensuring a smooth, coordinated transition across federal and state institutions.

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), which leads the federal implementation, praised the Bank's support.

"The AESTAP support to NERC has been vital in implementing the Electricity Act 2023 ensuring an orderly transition while maintaining industry stability and integrity," said Abdulkadir Shettima, GM and Lead of the EA 2023 Transition Implementation Team.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum has also benefited from AfDB support, especially through the harmonization of regulatory templates to guide state-level power markets.

"This initiative promotes standardization across jurisdictions and delivers long-term benefits to electricity consumers," said Chijioke Chuku, Director of Legal at the Forum.

At the state level, new regulators are taking shape with help from AfDB training and planning support.

In Ekiti State, officials credited the AfDB-sponsored course at the African School of Regulation for expanding their understanding of the power sector value chain and tariff setting.

"This training has equipped us with essential skills necessary to effectively fulfill our oversight responsibilities," said leaders from the Ekiti State Electricity Regulatory Bureau (EKSERB).

In Enugu, the Bank supported the development of the State Electricity Priority Plan (SEPP) - a comprehensive blueprint to guide sector reforms and attract investment.

"The SEPP will significantly accelerate our goal of universal electricity access," said Dr. Chuka Akunne, a Commissioner at the Enugu State Electricity Regulatory Commission. He added that training provided to the board was "timely and invaluable," enabling the Commission to launch its work with solid regulatory fundamentals.

Through targeted capacity building, harmonization efforts, and strategic planning, the AfDB is ensuring that Nigeria's transition to decentralized electricity governance is not only technically sound but truly inclusive and impactful - unlocking new potential to power over 90 million unserved Nigerians.

Key activities under Pillar II

Power Sector, Policy, Regulation, and Planning

Battery Energy Storage System in Nigeria (BESS)

AESTAP is supporting Nigeria to develop a BESS to enhance grid stability and improve energy access. This pioneering effort will help integrate renewable energy, reduce power outages, and support Nigeria's clean energy transition.

Green Hydrogen Sector Development Program in Mauritania

Under the AESTAP initiative, Mauritania is advancing a Green Hydrogen Development Program to harness its vast hydrogen energy potential. The project aims to position the country as a regional hub for green hydrogen, attract sustainable investments, and drive low-carbon industrial growth.

Database Management Systems (DBMS)

Through AESTAP, the AfDB is supporting the development of energy sector Database Management Systems (DBMS) in Liberia, Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, and Nigeria. These systems aim to improve data collection, analysis, and decision-making - enabling evidence-based policy, regulatory oversight, and investment planning. By strengthening institutional data capacity, DBMS enhances transparency, efficiency, and long-term sector resilience.

Implementing Tunisia's Just Energy Transition Strategy

Through the AESTAP initiative, under the African Energy Transition Catalyst (AETC) program, Tunisia is receiving targeted technical support to advance its 2035 Just Energy Transition Strategy. A key intervention involves the development of a feasibility study for a 250–500 MW offshore wind project that incorporates energy storage solutions. This technical assistance contributes directly to the implementation of Tunisia's 2035 Just Energy Transition Strategy.

Shaping a Just Energy Transition in Senegal

Senegal is receiving support to develop a Just Energy Transition Investment Plan as part of the AESTAP initiative through the AETC program. This technical assistance is designed to align the country's 2030 goal of achieving 40% renewable energy with broader national development objectives. It also focuses on strengthening institutional capacity and addressing key challenges related to energy access, affordability, and climate resilience.

Strengthening Regulator Institutional Capacity in Central Africa Republic

The AfDB's project to strengthen the regulatory institutional capacity in the CAR aims to enhance the effectiveness of the national electricity regulator. It focuses on building technical expertise, improving legal and operational frameworks, and enabling the regulator to oversee sector reforms, attract investment, and ensure transparent, sustainable energy governance.

Supporting Power Sector Regulation

AESTAP has supported power sector regulation in Djibouti by operationalizing its new electricity regulator, and in DRC, Madagascar, and Lesotho by strengthening regulatory capacity through activities such as tariff and grid code development, cost-of-service and quality-of-service studies, and extensive training for regulators and stakeholders to ensure lasting reform.

Key impacts

Digitizing utilities in Africa

The African Development Bank's Africa Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program (AESTAP) is driving a quiet but powerful revolution in energy regulation across Africa: digital transformation.

With the successful launch of a Regulatory Database Management System (DBMS) in Liberia in March 2025, AESTAP has laid the foundation for greater transparency, efficiency, and accountability in how energy utilities and regulators manage data. Similar efforts are advancing in Ghana and Nigeria, where modern digital platforms are being rolled out to replace outdated, fragmented systems.

Digitizing regulatory data has profound implications. It enhances planning and decision-making, strengthens investor confidence, and improves service delivery to consumers. These systems support real-time monitoring, automated reporting, and streamline tariff regulation processes - bringing African regulators in line with global standards.

This work falls under Pillar I of AESTAP, which focuses on knowledge, data, and policy dialogue. The platforms being developed with national partners are aligned with the goals of the Electricity Regulatory Index and the Africa Energy Portal - both core tools supported by the AfDB to drive evidence-based policymaking in the sector.

The program is now shifting its focus to Tanzania, Uganda and a second phase in Ghana, where similar digital platforms will be developed. As the initiative expands, it aims to equip all participating countries with robust digital systems that support sector reforms and the continent's just energy transition.

Key progress

Energy Regulation Reform Kicks Off in Central African Republic

A new chapter has begun in the Central African Republic's (CAR) energy sector with the official launch of a technical assistance project aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the electricity regulator. The three-day event, held in Bangui from May 5–7, 2025, was jointly led by the Ministry of Energy and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Funded through the Bank's Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA), the project provides USD612,704 to support regulatory reform, enhance data systems, and build a transparent environment for private sector investment in CAR's energy sector.

"This project reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to energy sector reform, a cornerstone of national development under President Faustin Archange Touadéra," said Minister Arthur Bertrand Piri, Minister of Energy and Water Resources. *"With only 8% electricity access nationally and 2% in rural areas, regulation is critical to opening the sector to new operators and ensuring energy reaches more of our people."*

The initiative is part of the broader Mission 300 commitment by African countries, which aims for universal electricity and clean cooking access by 2030. The project also aligns with the CAR's National Development Plan (PND 2024–2028).

Speaking on behalf of the AfDB, Mamady Souaré, Country Representative in CAR, emphasized the importance of regulatory reform to attract private investment. *"This marks the Bank's first technical assistance in energy regulation for CAR,"* he said. *"It stems from the findings of the Bank's Electricity Regulatory Index, which highlights the need to enhance transparency and private sector participation in generation, transmission, and distribution."*

The project is expected to deliver key reforms including :

- A new regulatory procedures manual;
- Improved systems for data analysis and monitoring;
- A stronger legal and institutional framework for licensing and tariff-setting;
- Greater collaboration between government, regulators, and operators.

"The success of this project depends on national ownership," said Souaré.

"We are confident that the Ministry will ensure its full and timely implementation."

The launch event was attended by high-level officials, donor representatives, civil society, and technical experts. It marks a crucial step toward CAR's vision of a regulated, inclusive, and investment-ready energy sector.

Key activities under Pillar III

Utility Transformation

Strengthening Angola's Energy Planning and Power Sector Reforms

Through the AESTAP initiative, Angola is receiving targeted technical assistance to update its Integrated Energy Resource Plan, aligning it with national priorities and the planning framework of the SAPP. This support also includes the development of a strategy for the national transmission company to integrate captive power investments and improve grid access for high-voltage customers. In parallel, AESTAP is contributing to ongoing power sector reforms by reviewing Angola's current market structure to enhance financial sustainability and improve overall sector performance.

Driving Financial Restructuring in São Tomé

São Tomé is receiving targeted support to restructure its national power utility under AESTAP. This includes a comprehensive technical performance audit across the entire electricity value chain to identify inefficiencies contributing to high production costs. Based on the audit findings, a practical roadmap will be developed to implement corrective measures aimed at improving operational efficiency and ensuring the utility's long-term financial sustainability.

Key activities under Pillar IV

Power Interconnections to Boost Regional Trade

Regional Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks

The AfDB's Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks initiative supports COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, and SADC in aligning electricity regulations to boost cross-border investments and regional power trade. By streamlining policies and standards, the initiative aims to create a more integrated and investor-friendly energy market across Africa's regional economic communities.

Africa's Energy Transition Framework and Roadmap

Spearheaded by the Africa Energy Commission (AFREC), Africa's Energy Transition Framework and Roadmap serves as a strategic blueprint to guide countries toward cleaner, more sustainable energy systems. The framework emphasizes regional integration, universal energy access, and low-carbon development, while supporting policy harmonization and investment planning across the continent. By fostering inclusive growth, job creation, and enhanced energy security, the initiative helps African countries meet their climate commitments without compromising development goals. As part of its implementation, tailored Deep Decarbonization Pathways (DDPs) have been developed for pilot countries including Madagascar, Botswana, and The Gambia—providing practical models for long-term, low-emission growth.

Advancing Regional Energy Integration

Two major regional initiatives are receiving strategic support through the AETC program under AESTAP. This include the Mega Solar Regional Market Study, assessing market demand, grid integration, and energy storage needs to unlock large-scale solar investments in Botswana and Namibia. The study aims to catalyze sustainable solar development and enhance regional energy security. Secondly, the

ZiZaBoNa Power Interconnector. Covering Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia, this regional transmission project is being supported through updated feasibility and environmental studies. The goal is to accelerate project implementation and boost electricity trade within the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Continental Power System Masterplan

Under AESTAP, support is being provided to update the EAPP Masterplan to align it with Continental Master Plan (CMP) strategies and streamline energy transition planning to enhance infrastructure resilience in the region. Additionally, resources are allocated to build capacity for the EGL Dispatch Centre, supporting coordination of the Ruzizi River hydropower cascade dispatch centre and strengthening power trade interconnections between the Central Africa Power Pool (CAPP) and EAPP.

Key impacts

How AfDB's USD1.5M Technial Assistance is transforming Energy Regulation in the COMESA Region

With a modest USD1.5 million in technical assistance, the AfDB has helped catalyze a more integrated and investment-ready energy market across the COMESA region.

Over the last two years, the COMESA Secretariat, through its regional energy association RAERESA, has led a regulatory harmonization effort that is already reshaping cross-border electricity governance.

"This USD1.5 million is creating far-reaching impact," said Dr. Mohamedain Seif Elnasr, CEO of RAERESA and lead architect of the project.

The project's long-term goal is to facilitate regional power trade and unlock energy investments by addressing fragmented policies. Governments across the region are increasingly treating energy as a basic human right and a catalyst for socio-economic development, making regulatory consistency vital to attracting infrastructure investments.

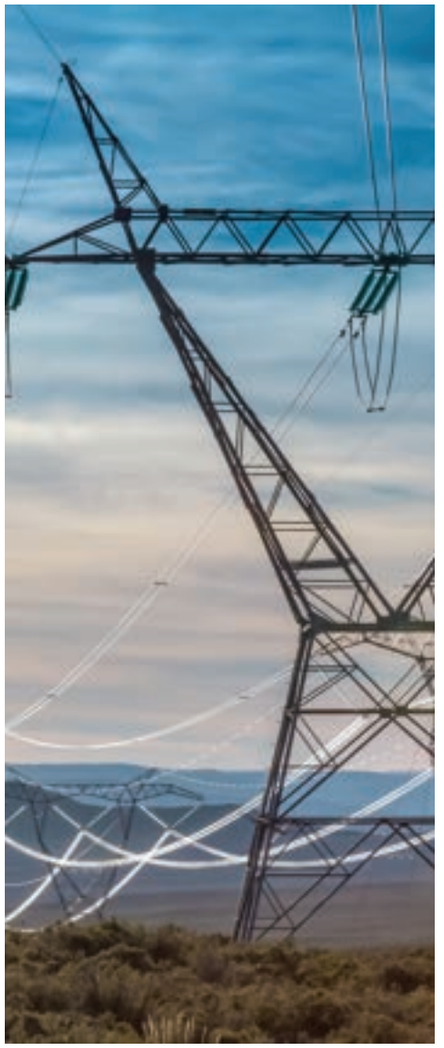
"With clear data, standardized indicators, and consistent regulation, we reduce investor risk," Dr. Mohamedain noted. While direct links to new investments are still early, private sector interest is growing, and recent events like the Africa Energy Forum have bolstered momentum.

This harmonization push is also closely aligned with continental goals such as the Mission 300 initiative, endorsed by African heads of state, which aims to provide electricity to 300 million people by 2030. COMESA is expected to deliver around 100 million of those connections.

"The frameworks we've developed support regional trade through mechanisms like the Southern Africa Power Pool and the upcoming Eastern Africa Power Pool," Dr. Mohamedain said. *"Electricity trade allows countries to defer capital-intensive generation projects while sharing excess capacity with neighbors."*

Following the endorsement of these frameworks by the COMESA Council of Ministers, the next phase involves national implementation. Dr. Mohamedain is urging support for domesticating these guidelines into national law and regulation.

> ***"We now have a harmonized framework for comparing tariffs, monitoring utility performance, and managing energy data—core elements for regional integration."***



COMESA Energy Regulation Progress in Four Pillars

01
Harmonized Regulatory Frameworks
Member states now have access to standardized guidelines to align national electricity regulation, supporting policy coherence across the region. This is expected to ease cross-border power trade and facilitate private sector participation in energy projects.

02
Utility Performance Monitoring Framework
A common set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) was developed to benchmark utility performance across COMESA countries. This will promote transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement among electricity utilities.

03
Harmonized Tariff and Cost Reflectivity Assessment Tool
One of the most critical achievements is a framework for comparing electricity tariffs and assessing cost-reflectivity across countries.

04
Centralized Energy Information and Database Management System
Launched in March 2025, the new regional energy data platform is now operational, providing member states, investors, and stakeholders with accessible, streamlined data. The system will enhance decision-making, reduce information gaps, and support energy planning.

SECTION 3

AESTAP AT THE CENTER OF MISSION 300

AESTAP will continue to play a pivotal role in accelerating universal energy access across Africa under Mission 300. Building on its strategic foundation across more than 20 countries, AESTAP will sustain and expand its targeted support for policy and regulatory reforms, integrated electrification planning, capacity building, and project preparation to unlock public and private investments and enhance sector delivery.

AESTAP's ongoing efforts will specifically accelerate the implementation of National Energy Compacts by providing tailored technical assistance designed to drive sector reforms and strengthen delivery capacity in priority countries.

This includes:

- Compact Delivery and Monitoring Unit (CDMU) Support, where AESTAP will back the establishment and operation of CDMUs at the highest government levels. These units will oversee Compact implementation, fast-track reforms, coordinate stakeholders, prioritize projects, and monitor progress.
- Compact Reform Implementation Support, which will continue assisting countries in delivering high-impact sector reforms aligned with Mission 300 targets. This includes regulatory strengthening, integrated resource planning, database management systems, and removal of key bottlenecks within 12 to 24 months, as outlined in their compacts' action plans.
- Beyond national priorities, AESTAP will advance regional power integration and resource planning to support critical cross-border interconnections essential for Mission 300's success. Through innovative technical assistance, capacity building, and modernization of data systems, AESTAP will help ensure sustainable and resilient energy systems aligned with Africa's long-term development goals.

Mission 300 welcomes support from diverse partner organizations to achieve its ambitious targets. While AESTAP original donors have retired their support, new partners such as the Rockefeller Foundation, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and the Italy's Mattei Plan are well-positioned to collaborate with AESTAP and join us in advancing our shared mission of accelerating universal energy access across Africa.

AFRICA ENERGY COMPACTS

Head of State
Back Technical Assistance

African Heads of State and Government have issued a strong call to action in support of technical assistance as a key enabler for unlocking funding and accelerating access to electricity for over 300 million people by 2030.

In the Dar es Salaam Declaration, adopted during the Africa Heads of State Energy Summit, leaders from across the continent endorsed the ambitious Mission 300 initiative - led by the AfDB, the World Bank, and key partners - which seeks to accelerate access to electricity and clean cooking solutions for 300 million Africans.

The declaration commended the AfDB and World Bank for their joint planned allocation of **USD 48 billion** toward electrification goals, including financing, private sector mobilization, and technical assistance. The Heads of State specifically highlighted the critical role of capacity building and institutional strengthening in creating the conditions for reform and investment.

The declaration calls on governments to **take adequate measures for institutional strengthening and capacity building**, emphasizing the importance of well-governed, financially viable utilities and regulatory agencies. It also urges countries to ensure that these efforts are synchronized with national energy compacts and regional integration priorities.

The Heads of State further recognized the need for **private sector involvement**, calling for supportive regulations, transparent procurement, and robust cost-recovery frameworks, all of which are underpinned by effective technical assistance.

The Africa Energy Summit in Dar es Salaam marks a new era of alignment among African countries, development partners, and investors. With this political backing, technical assistance is now firmly established as a strategic tool to transform Africa's energy landscape - ensuring that reforms today deliver sustainable energy access for generations to come.

Energy Compacts to Light Up Africa

Twelve African nations presented ambitious energy compacts at the Mission 300 summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - an unprecedented gathering of heads of state in January 2025 aimed at accelerating electricity.

Developed with support from the AESTAP, these national compacts chart out time-bound, data-driven roadmaps to reform energy sectors, attract private capital, and expand electricity provision. The total funding need across the 12 countries amounts to USD 126 billion, nearly evenly split between public and private sources. Energy generation and off-grid solutions account for the largest shares, both heavily reliant on private investment, while transmission, distribution, and last-mile connectivity lean more on public financing. USD 6 billion has been identified by the countries as necessary to support capacity building, advisory services, and technical assistance critical to effective compact implementation.

As a second cohort of 20 countries prepares to develop their own energy compacts, technical assistance remains vital. The pillars of AESTAP closely align with those of the Compact initiative, both emphasizing accelerated energy access, system strengthening, and sustainable energy transitions. This strong alignment ensures strategic coherence and reinforces shared priorities across the two frameworks. Therefore, AESTAP will prioritize Compact-related actions as essential drivers for transformative impact in the energy sector, while continuing to provide expert guidance to help de-risk investments and build bankable reforms.

The energy compacts are a cornerstone of Mission 300's ambition - ensuring no African is left in the dark by 2030.

> ***These compacts are not just documents - they are commitments. They embody the political will and policy clarity needed to unlock investments,"***
>
> **Wale Shonibare,** Director of Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation at the AfDB

Five pillars of Energy Compacts

01. Expanding generation and infrastructure
02. Strenghtening regional integration
03. Promoting distributed renewable energy and clean cooking
04. Attracting private sector investment
05. Ensuring the financial viability of utilities

SECTION 4

INVESTMENTS

AESTAP provides essential upstream technical assistance that underpins the development of Africa's power sector and paves the way for increased private sector investment in the energy sector. By supporting the creation of robust regulatory frameworks, enhancing sector planning, and strengthening institutional capacity, AESTAP helps create a more predictable and investor-friendly environment. This upstream work complements the Bank's downstream investment operations, forming a coherent, mutually reinforcing approach. The success of this model is reflected in recent Bank-approved projects such as Sokodé and Namaacha.

Sokodé Solar Project to boost energy access in Togo

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved €26.5 million in financing to support the construction of the Sokodé Solar Project - Togo's first privately financed solar photovoltaic (PV) plant. Located in Salimdè, near the city of Sokodé, the project will significantly expand access to clean and reliable energy in the country's central region.

Meeting Togo's Energy Needs:
The Sokodé solar plant supports Togo's national electrification strategy, which targets universal access to electricity by 2030. The project addresses the country's energy deficit, diversifies energy sources away from imported and polluting fuels, and strengthens grid reliability. Currently, Togo imports much of its electricity and still faces low access rates in rural areas.

With Togo aiming for 200 MW of renewable capacity by 2030, the Sokodé plant marks a significant milestone under the country's energy compact with AfDB's "Mission 300" - a continental initiative to deliver electricity access to 300 million Africans by 2030.

Development Impact

- **Private sector leadership**: Developed by Meridiam and EDF International, this greenfield project exemplifies successful public-private collaboration.
- **Local benefits:** Construction will create about 200 jobs, mostly for local workers. Improved electricity access will stimulate economic activity, enhance public services (especially health and education), and support small businesses.
- **Sustainability:** The project aligns with Togo's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and the AfDB's "Light Up and Power Africa" strategy.

KEY FACTS

CAPACITY

42 MWac
62 MWp solar PV plant

ANNUAL GENERATION

87 GWh
of renewable energy

REACH

Over 700,000 people to benefit

TRANSMISSION LINE

11 km to integrate into the national grid

CO_2 REDUCTION

13,600 tons annually

Power Boost for Mozambique, Southern Africa:
Namaacha Line to bring clean, reliable energy

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a financing package totaling USD 43.6 million to support the construction of the Namaacha-Boane Transmission Line and associated infrastructure in Mozambique. This strategic investment aims to enhance the country's energy infrastructure by evacuating up to 120 MW (331.6 GWh) of affordable and clean energy to from the Namaacha Wind Farm to consumers in Mozambique and the southern Africa region. The project will be implemented by Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) in close collaboration with Central Eléctrica da Namaacha (CEN).

Meeting Mozambique's and Southern Africa Energy Needs :
The enhanced transmission capacity is expected to facilitate thousands of new electricity connections for households and businesses, particularly in underserved peri-urban and rural areas, improving energy access and quality of life.

The project will also contribute to the improvement of the country's competitiveness and promote regional integration by positioning Mozambique to be a dominant supplier of cheap and clean renewable energy to SAPP member countries as a member of SAPP. The project will also bolster the country's experience in public private partnerships through the collaboration of CEN and EDM.

Development Impact

- Public-Private Partnership : Developed by EDM in collaboration with CEN, this project exemplifies successful public-private collaboration
- Local benefits : Construction will create about 200 jobs, mostly for local workers. Improved electricity access will stimulate economic activity, enhance public services (especially health and education), and support small businesses.
- Regional Integration : The transmission line will evacuate clean and affordable energy from the 120 MW Namaacha project for domestic use and sale through the Southern African Power Pool which is currently dominated by fossil fuel.
- Sustainability : The project aligns with Mozambique climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, the AfDB's "Light Up and Power Africa" strategy and M300.

KEY FACTS

Transmission Line Length
43 kms

Line Capacity
2 single circuit 66kV/240 MVA/plus 27MWAr Statcom

Electricity Evacuation capacity
331.6 GWh of renewable electricity

CO_2 reduction
71,816 tons tons annually

AfDB wins
«Infrastructure Deal of the Year»

The African Development Bank has been honored with the prestigious **"Infrastructure Deal of the Year"** award at the African Banker Awards 2025. This esteemed recognition acknowledges the Bank's pivotal role in financing the transformational 1.1 GW Suez Wind Power Project in Egypt, which stands as the largest wind energy project in Africa to date.

The award celebrates the Bank's exemplary leadership and innovative approach in mobilizing USD 140 million in financing for the landmark USD 1.04 billion project. This transaction is recognized as a model for reshaping Africa's renewable energy landscape through strategic financial engineering and collaborative partnerships.

Situated in the Gulf of Suez, the project is being developed by Suez Wind Energy S.A.E., a special purpose vehicle formed by ACWA Power and HAU Energy B.V. (a consortium comprising Hassan Allam Utilities, Meridiam, and EBRD), with Oman Investment Authority and the Sovereign Fund of Egypt as equity partners. The 1.1 GW wind farm will incorporate 138 Envision turbines, each boasting an 8MW capacity, marking the inaugural deployment of this advanced wind technology in Africa.

Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth at the African Development Bank, stated: *"This award affirms our unwavering commitment to delivering large-scale, sustainable energy solutions across the continent. The Suez Wind Project not only advances Egypt's ambitious target of achieving 42% renewable energy in its generation mix by 2030, but also serves as a blueprint for the future of clean energy financing in Africa."*

Wale Shonibare, Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation at the Bank, added: *"The Suez Wind project exemplifies what can be achieved through strong partnerships, rigorous due diligence, and innovative financial structuring. It demonstrates Africa's ability to lead in deploying complex renewable energy technologies at scale."*

Jing Li, Division Manager, Energy Financial Solutions, African Development Bank, added: *"Leading the Bank's investment in the 1.1 GW Suez Wind Power Project has been an extraordinary*

journey. I extend my sincere gratitude to ACWA Power for their unwavering commitment and collaborative spirit throughout this transaction. This marks our third successful collaboration, following the Redstone 100 MW CSP in South Africa and the Kom Ombo 200 MW solar PV project in Egypt, each pushing the boundaries of what is possible in Africa's energy transition. We are immensely proud of our achievements and look forward to scaling up our partnership to electrify Africa with cleaner, more resilient energy systems."

Beyond financing, the African Development Bank played a pivotal role in navigating and overcoming the unique challenges of this pioneering project. These included ensuring environmental protection in areas vital for bird migration, managing macroeconomic volatility, and integrating untested turbine technologies. The Bank also supported the integration of robust environmental safeguards, including advanced bird monitoring systems and strategic turbine placement, thereby ensuring a sustainable balance between energy development and conservation.

Once operational in 2027, the wind farm will generate approximately 4,111 GWh of clean electricity annually, sufficient to power over one million households and concurrently offsetting 1.71 million tons of CO_2 emissions per year. Furthermore, the project is expected to create 1,425 full-time and 315 part-time jobs during its construction phase, with a strong emphasis on youth employment and gender inclusion.

This prestigious recognition reinforces the African Development Bank's role as a catalyst for Africa's clean energy transition and reaffirms its commitment to fostering sustainable development in line with Mission 300 and High 5 priorities.

SECTION 5

AFDB'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

USD29.1B

From 2000 to 2024, the Bank approved energy sector investments worth approximately **USD29.1 billion,** catalyzing reforms and delivering real-world impact

2M

Access to Clean Cooking
Enabled nearly 2 million households to transition to clean cooking

4.4M

Over 4.4. million households
newly connected to electricity since 2016

Climate Financing

From 2016 the Bank commited on average **43% of its investment portfolio** to climate-friendly projects

USD927M

AfDB mobilised **USD927 million** in external climate financing projects

REGULATORS SPEAK

KENYA

“In Kenya, we’ve made significant progress in implementing many of the ERI’s recommendations. For example, on the legal front, we enacted the Energy Act of 2019. One of the outcomes of this legislation was the establishment of a three-year control period for utility regulation. This has helped streamline our decision-making processes and improve predictability for sector stakeholders.”

Dr John M. Mutua
Director for Economic Regulation - EPRA

EGYPT

“Several recommendations from the ERI have already been implemented in Egypt. For instance, one key area was stakeholder engagement, particularly through public consultations. We've made significant progress in this area. Another focus was capacity building, leading us to launch various training and development programs aimed at enhancing our technical capabilities.”

Sherein Abdalla
Technical Performance Evaluation Dept. Manager - EGYPTERA

TOGO

“One major impact of the ERI has been the strengthening of our publication procedures; today, all regulatory decisions are published and accessible, fostering greater transparency and accountability. In terms of governance, we have adopted critical regulations, including a tariff methodology and a framework for service costs. These documents are foundational for the development of the electricity sector, as they provide clear rules and guidance for stakeholders, facilitating market entry and participation.”

Tbidé Laure BATABA-TONGO
Director of Legal Affairs- ARSE

AESTAP
Africa Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program

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