



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT



AESTAP 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2026

2025

An annual report of AfDB's technical
assistance in the energy sector

June 2026

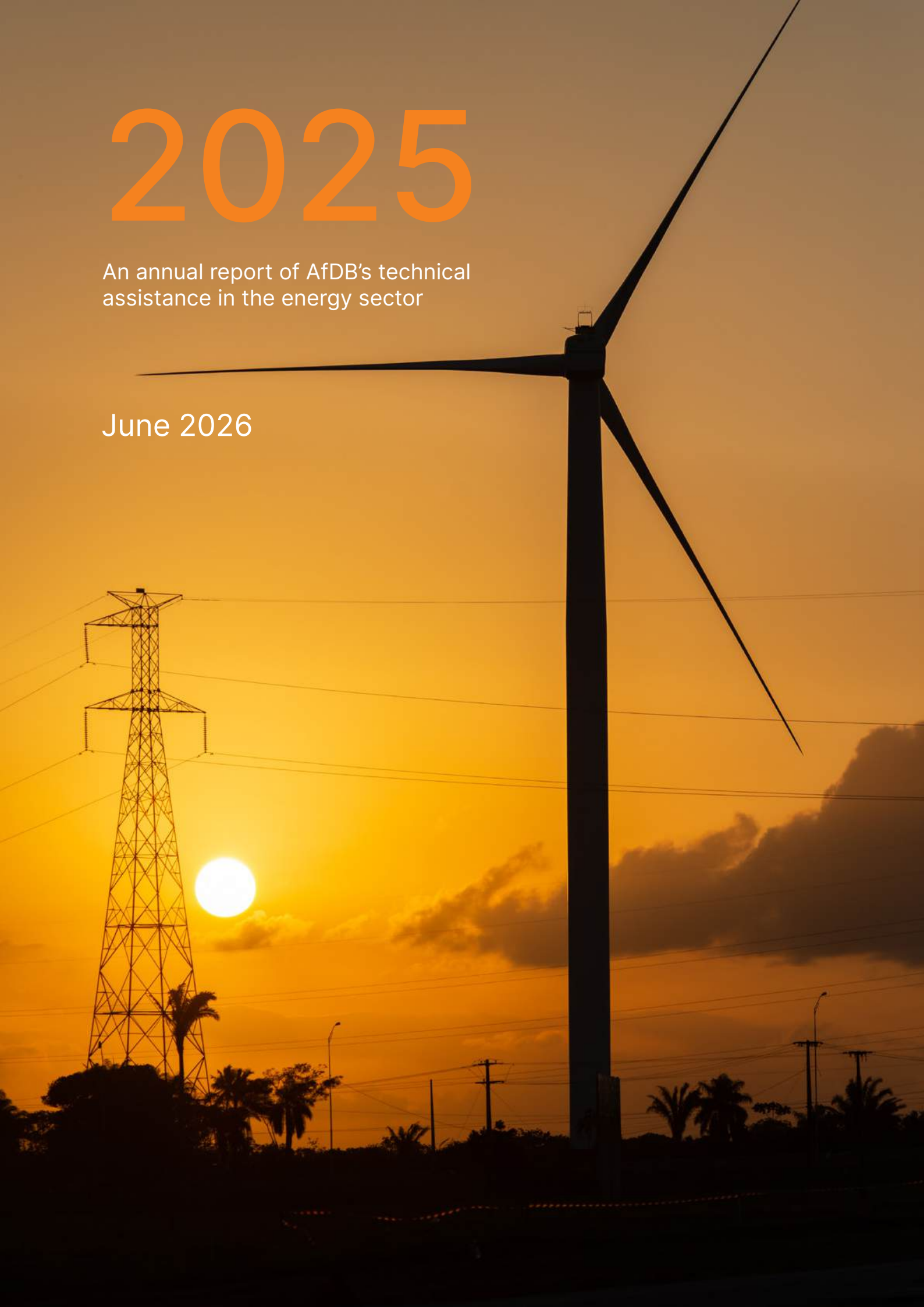


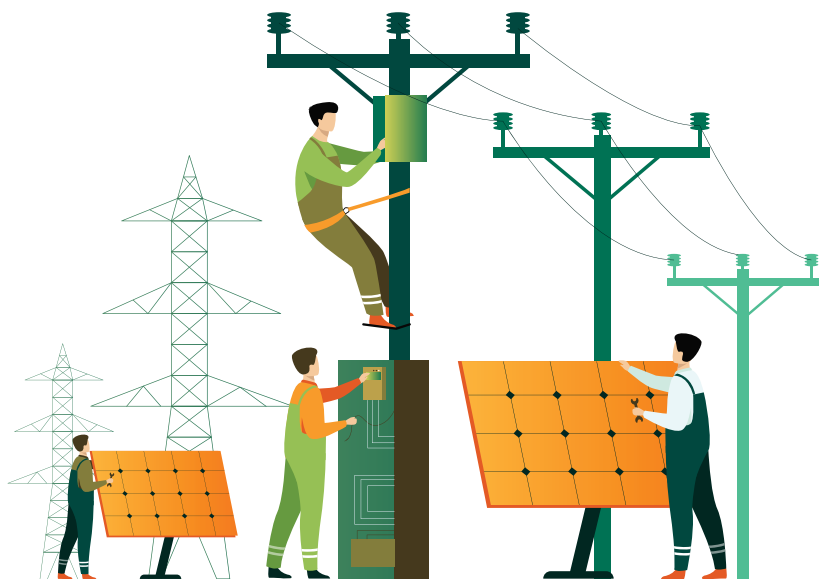
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEMP	Africa Energy Market Place
AEP	Africa Energy Portal
AESTAP	Africa Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program
AETC	Africa Energy Transition Catalyst
AFREC	African Energy Commission
AfDB	African Development Bank
APUA	Association of Power Utilities of Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
BESS	Battery Energy Storage Systems
CDMU	Compact Delivery and Monitoring Unit
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DBMS	Database Management System
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ERI	Electricity Regulatory Index
ESMAP	Energy Sector Management Assistance Program
FAPA	Fund for African Private Sector Assistance
GEAPP	Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet
IEA	International Energy Agency
NERC	Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
KOAFEC	Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation
PESR	Energy Financial Solutions, Policy, and Regulation Department
PURC	Public Utilities Regulatory Commission
RAERESA	Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa
SAPP	Southern African Power Pool
SEFA	Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa
SEforALL	Sustainable Energy for All
WBG	World Bank Group

FOREWORD



Africa's ambition to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity requires more than investments in generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. It also requires strong institutions, sound regulatory frameworks, effective sector planning, and the capacity to translate policies into implementation. Across the continent, institutional, regulatory, and implementation bottlenecks continue to delay investments, constrain utility performance, and slow progress toward energy access objectives.

The Africa Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program (AESTAP) was established in early 2024 by the African Development Bank as a flagship technical assistance initiative to address these upstream constraints and bridge institutional delivery gaps in Africa's energy sector. Through support for policy and regulatory reforms, sector planning, utility transformation, institutional strengthening, and knowledge generation, AESTAP helps create the enabling environment necessary to accelerate sustainable energy investments and improve sector performance across the continent.

Since its inception, AESTAP has evolved into one of the Bank's principal platforms for delivering upstream technical assistance in the energy sector. To date, the program has supported more than 35 beneficiary institutions across 24 African countries and regional organizations, with over USD 26 million in approved financing mobilized through AESTAP operations, multinational technical assistance programs, and complementary energy transition initiatives.

Today, AESTAP serves as a key delivery vehicle for the African Development Bank's contribution to [Mission 300](#), the joint African Development Bank–World Bank initiative aimed at providing electricity access to 300 million Africans by 2030. At the core of Mission 300 are [National Energy Compacts](#) developed by 30 African governments,

which set out country-specific commitments, reforms, investment priorities, and implementation pathways to accelerate access to electricity and clean cooking, strengthen energy infrastructure, and increase private sector participation in the energy sector.

AESTAP is playing a catalytic role in supporting the development and implementation of these Compacts. Through targeted technical assistance, the program supports the institutional and governance frameworks required for successful implementation, including the establishment and operationalization of Compact Delivery and Monitoring Units (CDMUs), strengthening coordination mechanisms, and supporting the execution of priority reform actions identified in the Compacts. The approvals of AESTAP Mission 300 Phases I and II Technical Assistance Packages mark an important step in this direction, providing additional support to countries as they implement their energy compacts and accelerate progress toward universal access.

The achievements highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the generous support of our development partners. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), the Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA), the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Trust Fund (KOAPEC), and other partners whose contributions continue to strengthen Africa's energy institutions and reform agenda. Their support has enabled AESTAP to reach a cross-section of AfDB's regional member countries and several regional institutions.

I would also like to recognize the dedication of colleagues across the Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth Complex (PEVPG) of the AfDB, the Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation Department (PESR), our country offices, regional departments, and operational teams. Their expertise, commitment, and collaboration have been instrumental in translating technical assistance into meaningful reforms and measurable development outcomes. I am equally grateful to the governments, regulators, utilities, businesses, power pools, regional economic communities, and development partners who continue to work with us to advance Africa's energy ambitions.

The work of AESTAP is closely aligned with the strategic direction of the Bank under its new leadership, which places strong emphasis on delivery, impact, efficiency, partnerships, and mobilizing investment at scale. These priorities reinforce a fundamental lesson from our experience across the continent: sustainable energy development requires strong institutions, effective regulation, quality data, and coordinated implementation. By helping countries strengthen these foundations, AESTAP contributes directly to creating markets that are more attractive to public and private investment while delivering tangible benefits to citizens.

The achievements presented in this report demonstrate the growing importance of technical assistance in addressing the underlying institutional and regulatory barriers that often impede investment and sector transformation. From strengthening regulatory frameworks and advancing regional power market integration to supporting energy transition planning and improving sector governance, AESTAP continues to provide countries with the tools, knowledge, and capacity required to deliver lasting results. The AfDB remains committed to working with governments, investors, and development partners to ensure that Africa's energy transformation delivers opportunity, growth, and prosperity for all.

Wale Shonibare

Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation Department



African heads of state and government gather at the 2025 Africa Energy Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where leaders endorsed efforts to accelerate electricity access across the continent. Photo credit: AfDB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Africa Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program (AESTAP) continued to play a central role in supporting Africa's energy sector transformation in 2025 by strengthening institutions, advancing regulatory and policy reforms, improving sector planning, supporting utility performance, promoting regional integration, and accelerating energy transition initiatives. As the African Development Bank's flagship platform for upstream technical assistance in the energy sector, AESTAP supports governments, regulators, utilities, and regional institutions in addressing the barriers that often constrain investment, sector performance, and sustainable energy access.



AfDB Group President, Dr Sidi Ould Tah (left) and World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga (right), at the unveiling of the second batch of Mission 300 National Energy Compacts, New York, 24 Sept 2025 - Photo Credit: Bloomberg Philanthropies

During the year, AESTAP delivered support across its four strategic pillars: Knowledge, Data and Policy Dialogue; Power Sector Policy, Regulation and Planning; Sustainable Utility Transformation; and Regional Integration and Power Market Development. Through these pillars, the program provided targeted technical assistance to strengthen governance, improve regulatory effectiveness, enhance utility performance, facilitate regional electricity trade, and support evidence-based decision-making across the continent.

A major highlight of the year was the launch of the Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI) 2024 at the Africa Energy Forum. Covering 43 African countries, the ERI has evolved from a benchmarking exercise into a

practical tool for regulatory improvement and policy dialogue. Regulators are increasingly using its findings to identify gaps in regulatory frameworks, strengthen transparency and accountability, and prioritize reforms that improve sector governance, investment readiness, and service delivery.

Across countries, AESTAP provided targeted support to regulatory institutions and ministries through the development of regulatory instruments and technical tools, including Cost-of-Service Studies (CoSS), tariff methodologies, licensing frameworks, grid code assessments, quality-of-service regulations, and regulatory capacity building. In countries such as Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho and Madagascar, these interventions are helping establish the economic and technical foundations necessary to support future reforms, strengthen regulatory oversight, and improve sector performance.

Nigeria illustrates the depth of AESTAP's impact. Support for the implementation of the Electricity Act 2023 has helped open the door to decentralized, state-level electricity markets. At the same time, technical assistance for smart metering is improving grid performance, transparency, and consumer confidence.

The program also contributed to Africa's broader energy transition agenda through the Africa Energy

Transition Catalyst (AETC). In collaboration with the African Energy Commission (AFREC), AETC supported the preparation of the African Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan (ETSAP) and piloted Deep Decarbonization Pathways (DDPs) in Botswana, The Gambia, and Madagascar. Additional support was provided for the preparation of Senegal's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP), while ongoing assistance in Tunisia, Nigeria, and Mauritania is helping advance country-led energy transition frameworks and investment roadmaps for emerging clean energy technologies, including offshore wind, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and Green Hydrogen (GH). These initiatives are helping countries align energy security, affordability, and sustainability objectives while strengthening investment readiness for the transition to low-carbon energy systems.

At the regional level, AESTAP supported power pools, regional regulators, and continental institutions through initiatives aimed at strengthening regulatory harmonization, regional planning, and electricity market integration. This included support to COMESA's Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) to advance regulatory harmonization and regional regulatory cooperation. Under the Mega Solar Initiative, AESTAP supported a regional market study assessing opportunities to enhance variable renewable energy (VRE) trade

2025 in Brief

 Strengthening regulatory frameworks and institutions	 Enhancing regional power market integration	 Driving Africa's energy sector transformation	 Building foundations for sustainable energy investments	 Accelerating Africa's energy transition agenda
 Launching ERI 2024 across 43 African countries	 Supporting Mission 300 implementation	 Advancing electricity sector reforms in Nigeria	 Promoting clean energy investment readiness	 Delivering impact through four strategic pillars

between Namibia and Botswana and strengthen cross-border electricity markets. Ongoing support to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) includes analytical work on the Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF), the SAPP merchant market, and a regional energy storage strategy to facilitate renewable energy integration and regional power trade. Further support is being provided to the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and AUDA-NEPAD for the development of the EAPP Master Plan under the Continental Master Plan (CMP), strengthening regional power system planning and investment readiness.

In parallel, AESTAP expanded its support to key aspects of Mission 300 (M300), the joint African Development Bank–World Bank initiative

to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030. The approval of AESTAP Mission 300 Phase I and Phase II projects in late 2025 and early 2026 marked an important milestone in scaling up the program's support for Mission 300 implementation. AESTAP is supporting the establishment and operationalization of Compact Delivery and Monitoring Units (CDMUs) across Mission 300 countries and providing technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of National Energy Compacts. By strengthening coordination mechanisms, monitoring frameworks, institutional capacity, and reform implementation processes, AESTAP is helping CDMUs translate Compact commitments into actionable programs, priority reforms, and bankable investment opportunities.

Taken together, AESTAP's work in 2025 demonstrates a simple but critical point: while technical assistance does not build infrastructure directly, it builds the systems that make infrastructure investments viable—strengthening institutions, clarifying rules, and improving coordination.



According to the AfDB's 2025 Annual Report, 1.5 million people gained access to electricity, including 780,000 women. In 2025, AESTAP supported national and regional institutions across Africa in strengthening the policy, regulatory and institutional foundations needed to unlock downstream investments that expand access to electricity. Photo: AfDB.



Solar panels at the AfDB-funded 30 MW solar photovoltaic power plant in Dekemhare, Eritrea. By strengthening the enabling environment for clean energy investments, AESTAP supports Africa's just energy transition. Photo: AfDB.

AESTAP AT A GLANCE

AESTAP is the AfDB's flagship platform for upstream energy sector technical assistance. It provides demand-driven support to national and regional institutions, targeting policy, regulatory, planning, and utility performance barriers that limit energy investment and system sustainability.

The program's development objective is to create an enabling environment for sovereign and non-sovereign investment while promoting energy security, expanded access, and decarbonization.

AESTAP operates through four pillars:

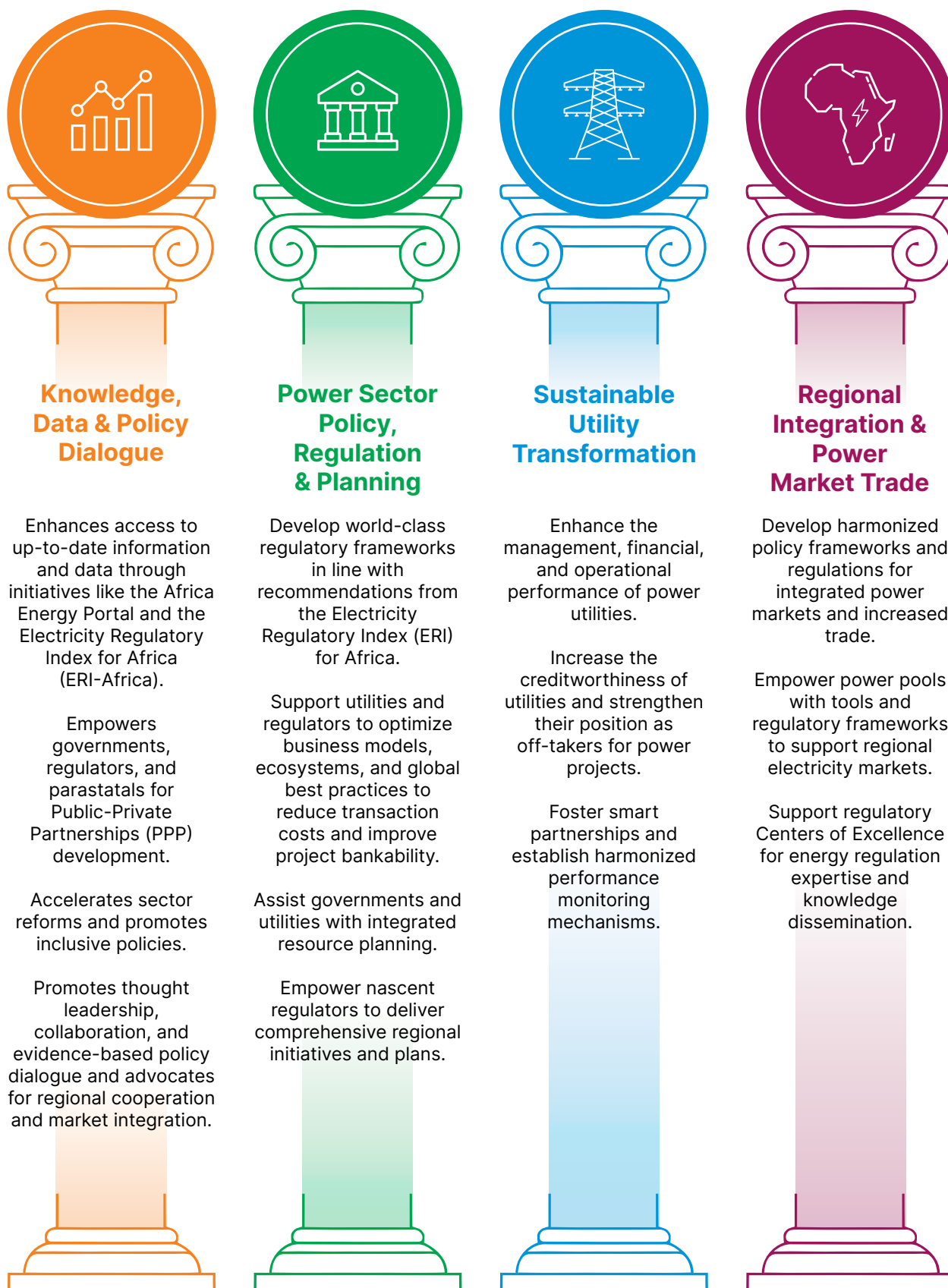
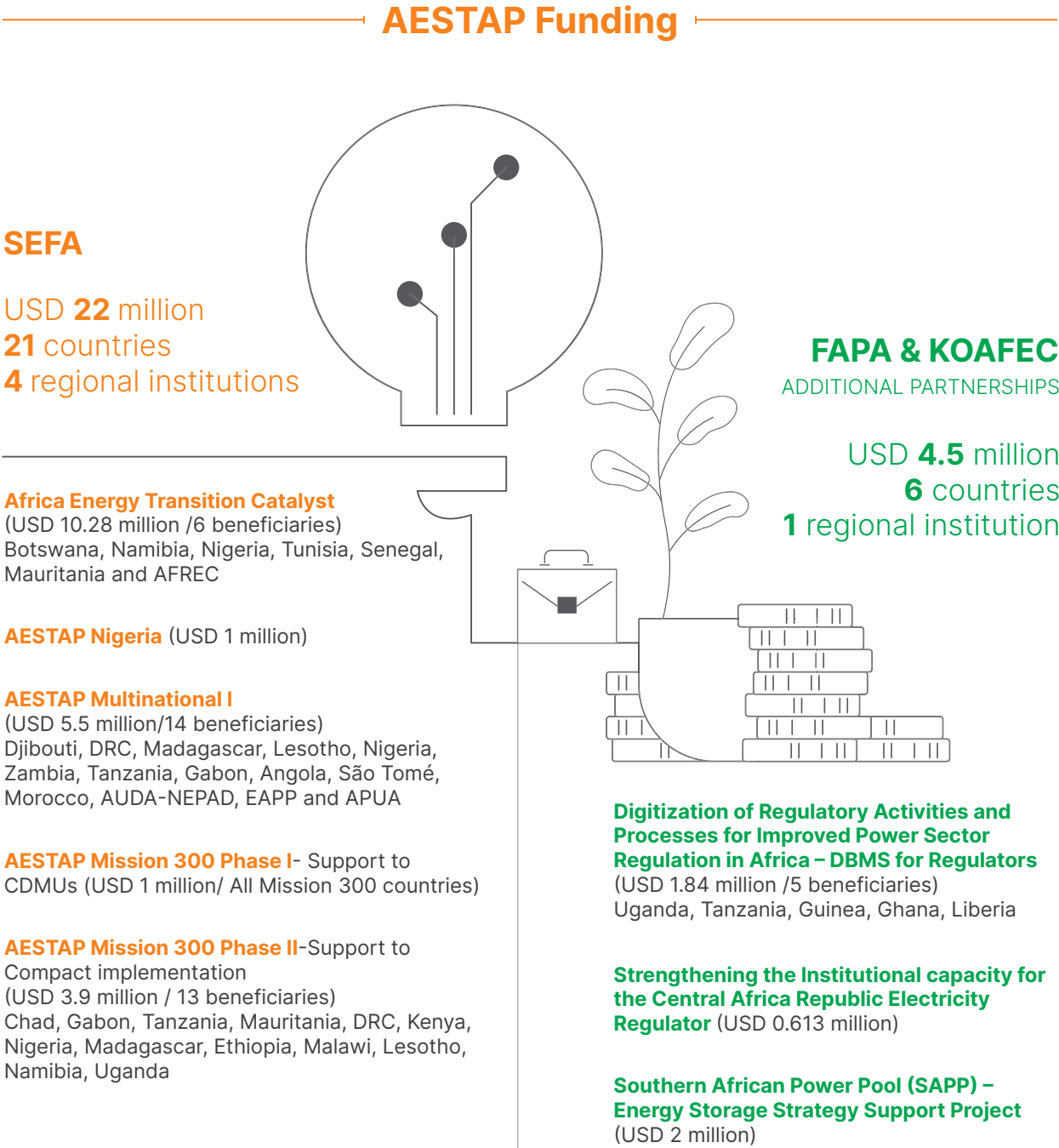


Figure 1: AESTAP Pillars

AESTAP was initially established as a structured platform to strengthen the policy, regulatory, and institutional foundations of Africa's energy sector and to support the implementation of the Bank's New Deal on Energy for Africa. Today, AESTAP plays a central role in advancing Mission 300, the joint AfDB–World Bank initiative aimed at connecting 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030. In this context, the program has sharpened its focus on upstream interventions that create the conditions for sustainable investment and accelerated energy access.





One of AESTAP's beneficiaries in 2025 was Morocco's National Electricity Regulatory Authority (ANRE), which received support for a study on the hosting capacity of the country's electricity distribution networks.

Key Beneficiaries of AESTAP in 2025

In 2025, AESTAP supported a broad range of national and regional institutions across Africa. 43 countries participated in the 2024 Electricity Regulatory Index for Africa (ERI) which measures and benchmarks the maturity of electricity sector regulatory frameworks across the continent. The ERI's core goal is to diagnose policy gaps, improve sector performance, and boost investor confidence to ultimately scale up energy access. Based on the findings the Bank has worked with national regulatory institutions to develop technical assistance projects to strengthen their regulatory frameworks.

At the regional level, the Association of Power Utilities of Africa (APUA), the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP), the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), and the African Energy Commission (AFREC).

As an upstream program, AESTAP does not directly deliver connections as planned under Mission 300. However, its work helps create the enabling environment for downstream investments that ultimately drive electricity access.

AESTAP Across Africa: Supporting Energy Sector Transformation

The Autorité Nationale de Régulation de l'Électricité (ANRE) in **Morocco** through a study on the hosting capacity of electricity distribution networks.

Mauritania, through the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of Mauritania, in the development of a green hydrogen sector and broader Just Energy Transition initiatives.

Senegal, through the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, in advancing its national just Energy Transition Plan.

Tunisia, including support to the national utility Société Tunisienne de l'Électricité et du Gaz (STEG), for the preparation of a feasibility study for an offshore wind power project under the country's Just Energy Transition agenda

In **Nigeria**, AESTAP is supporting the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) through the rollout of smart metering programs, backed by technical, financial, and legal frameworks. Additional support extends to the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to strengthen grid readiness for the energy transition, including integration of battery energy storage systems.

The Agence de Régulation Multisectorielle de Djibouti (ARMD) in **Djibouti** through the implementation of Cost-of-Service Studies (CoSS), Quality-of-Service (QoS) tools, and capacity-building workshops.

The Directorate General of Energy (Direção Geral de Energia – DGE) and Empresa de Água e Electricidade (EMAE) in **São Tomé and Príncipe**, where activities are being re-scoped, including potential support for the development of financial and economic analysis for selected renewable projects.

The Ministry of Energy of **Gabon**, where AESTAP is supporting policy dialogue through AEMP to facilitate the country's entry into Mission 300 and the development of its Energy Compact.

The Autorité de Régulation de l'Électricité (ARE) in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** through CoSS implementation and studies on generation, transmission, and distribution grid codes.

The Ministry of Energy and Water of **Angola** (Ministério da Energia e Águas – MINEA), where activities are being re-scoped under Mission 300, including potential support for rural electrification planning and Compact Delivery and Monitoring Units (CDMUs).

The Ministry of Energy of **Tanzania** in implementing the Africa Energy Market Place (AEMP) Action Plan under its 2025–2030 Energy Compact.

The Autorité de Régulation de l'Électricité de **Madagascar** (ARELEC) through CoSS, QoS codes, and staff training.

The Ministry of Energy of **Zambia**, where support has shifted toward CDMU implementation aligned with Mission 300.

The **Lesotho** Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA) through strengthening of tariff-setting frameworks and CoSS.

Botswana and Namibia, including support linked to regional integration initiatives under the Southern African Power Pool.

The depiction of boundaries on this map is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply the African Development Bank Group's position regarding the legal status of any territory or the delimitation of international boundaries.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY PILLARS

Pillar I: Knowledge, Data, and Policy Dialogue

Pillar II: Power Sector Policy, Regulation, and Planning

Pillar III: Sustainable Utility Transformation

Pillar IV: Regional Integration and Power Market Development





Pillar I Knowledge, Data, and Policy Dialogue

In 2025, AESTAP continued supporting the information systems, analytical tools, and policy dialogue platforms that help guide decision-making in Africa's energy sector.

Among the most significant outputs of the year was the publication and launch of the [ERI 2024](#), one of the AfDB's flagship knowledge products in the energy sector. The report was officially unveiled at the Africa Energy Forum in Cape Town in June 2025, bringing together regulators, utilities, policymakers, and investors to discuss how regulatory reform can accelerate Africa's energy transition.

The ERI assesses regulatory performance across 43 African countries, evaluating electricity sector governance through three dimensions: regulatory governance, regulatory substance, and regulatory outcomes.

In the 2024 edition, Kenya and Senegal emerged as joint leaders, reflecting significant progress in regulatory transparency, tariff reform, and institutional capacity. Other countries also showed notable improvements in regulatory performance, highlighting the growing maturity of regulatory institutions across the continent.

While the ERI provides a comparative benchmark across countries, its practical value lies in its role as a reform navigation tool. Regulators increasingly use its findings to identify gaps in regulatory frameworks, prioritize corrective actions, and strengthen credibility in areas that directly affect investment readiness, including tariff methodologies, licensing procedures, regulatory independence, and transparency in decision-making.

Beyond benchmarking, the ERI also supports peer learning among regulators. By comparing approaches across countries, institutions can draw lessons from each other's experiences and adapt successful practices to their own contexts. Regulators themselves frequently emphasize this value. In Kenya, the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority has noted how the ERI has helped strengthen regulatory design and implementation. In Egypt, participation in the ERI process helped improve regulatory transparency and access to information. In Togo, the index helped identify priority reforms and guide the development of tariff methodologies and regulatory documentation.



**Kenya & Senegal
led ERI 2024**



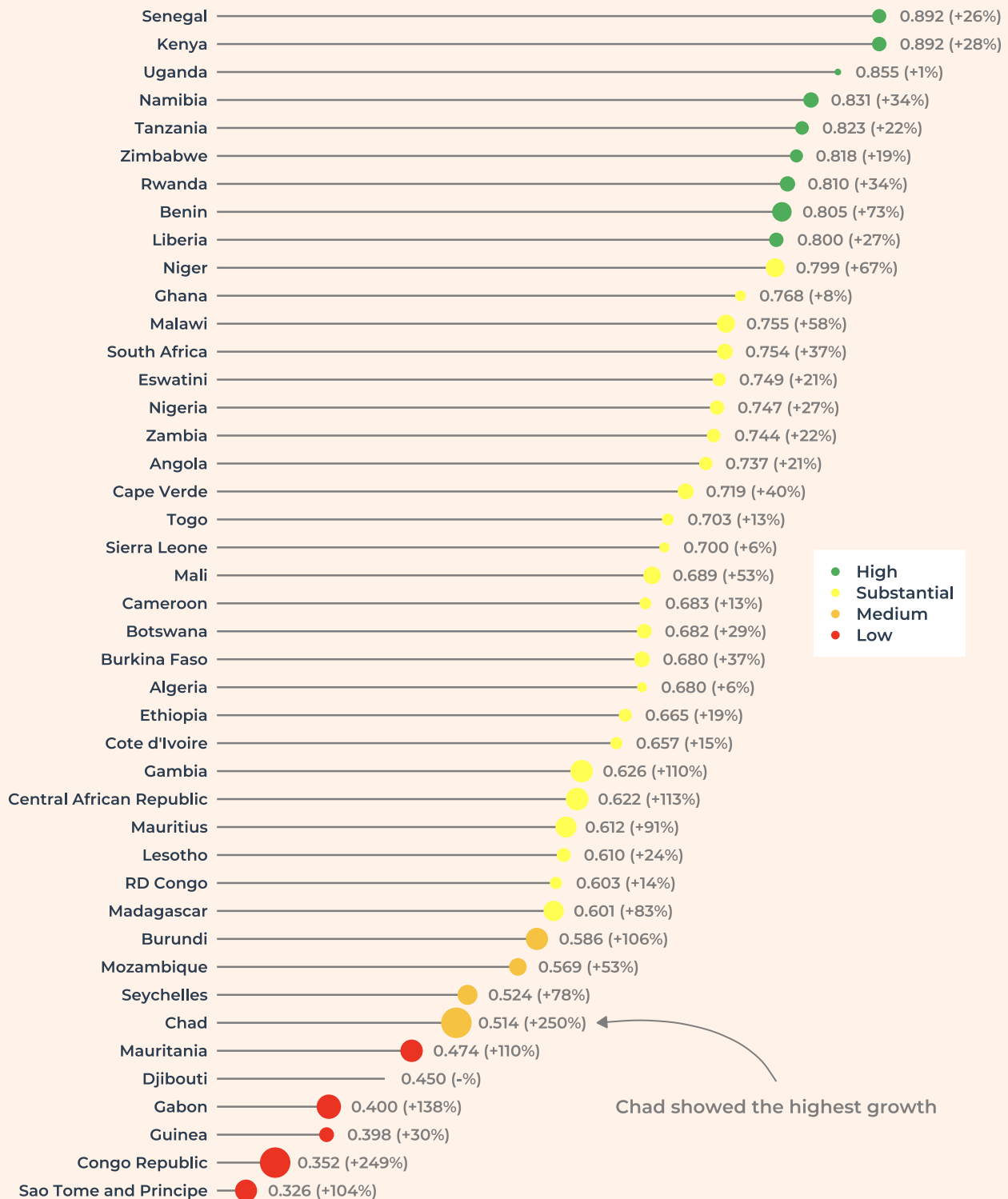
**AESTAP expanded the
rollout of DBMS for energy
regulators and utilities**



**AEP
improved**

Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI) for Africa 2024

ERI scores for 2024 are displayed, together with their corresponding percentage variation from 2022



In 2025, AESTAP also continued efforts to improve the availability and accessibility of energy sector data. One of the key tools supporting this effort is the Africa Energy Portal (AEP), a digital platform providing open access to energy sector information across the continent.

The portal offers country-level electricity sector profiles, market intelligence, policy analysis, research publications, and sector news.

By improving access to credible information, the platform supports better-informed decisionmaking by governments, investors, researchers, and development partners. In many countries where reliable energy data has historically been limited, such transparency plays an important role in strengthening investment planning and sector oversight.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) were also the subject of a knowledge-sharing webinar during which participants exchanged insights and disseminated knowledge on BESS technologies and applications. In addition, the AfDB, through the department, partnered with UNIDO to develop a study on green hydrogen. The study provides concrete guidelines for sustainable hydrogen projects in developing countries.

In 2025, AESTAP's knowledge and policy work benefited key continental and regional institutions. Through the Africa Energy Transition Catalyst (AETC) project, AESTAP supported AFREC in the preparation and validation of the [African Energy](#)

[Transition Strategy and Action Plan](#) (ETSAP), along with the piloting of Deep Decarbonization Pathways (DDPs) in Botswana, The Gambia, and Madagascar. In parallel, AESTAP continued working with the African Power Utilities Association (APUA) to develop a continental utility database management system designed to strengthen benchmarking and information sharing among African utilities. Once operational, this system will allow power companies across the continent to share operational and financial performance data more systematically, improving transparency and facilitating knowledge exchange across the sector.

Another significant component of AESTAP's work in 2025 was the continued [digitalization](#) of regulatory data and information systems through the rollout of Database Management Systems (DBMS). As part of the initiative, officials from Tanzania's Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority (ZURA), and Uganda's Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) participated in technical training supported by the African Development Bank. Implemented under AESTAP, the DBMS is designed to streamline regulatory processes, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen transparency in the electricity sector. By automating key performance indicators, the system enables real-time monitoring of service delivery as well as financial, technical, and commercial performance. The initiative aligns with the Bank's broader push to accelerate digital transformation across Africa's energy sector.

Overall, these activities help countries identify reform priorities and align stakeholders around shared objectives. Translating these insights into concrete regulatory reforms and planning tools is the focus of the program's second pillar.

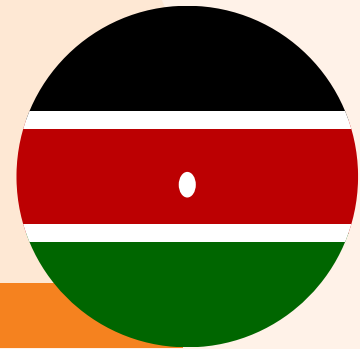
BOX 2 - What regulators say about ERI

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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



KENYA

“

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.”

Sherin Abdalla

Technical Performance Evaluation Dept. Manager - EGYTPERA



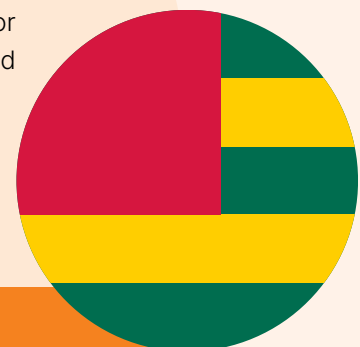
EGYPT

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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.”

Abide BATABA-AGAMAH

Director of Legal Affairs, Electricity Sector Regulatory Authority (ARSE)



TOGO



AESTAP has contributed to the digitalization of Ghana's Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC), with far-reaching impacts that are transforming how regulation works: how data is collected, how decisions are made, and how quickly consumers see results. Photo: AfDB

IMPACT STORY

How digitalization is reshaping energy regulation in Ghana

Not long ago, resolving a simple electricity complaint in Ghana could take days or even weeks. Consumers often had to travel to regulatory offices, fill out forms, and wait. Inside the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC), staff relied on a patchwork of paper files, spreadsheets, and emails to track what was happening across the country's power and water systems. By the time a problem became visible, it had often already escalated.

Today, that picture is beginning to change, quietly but significantly. With support from the AfDB through the AESTAP, PURC has introduced a Database Management System (DBMS) that is transforming how regulation works: how data is collected, how decisions are made, and how quickly consumers see results.

At its core, the DBMS is a centralized digital platform. But for those working inside the Commission, it represents a deeper institutional shift.



"That was the reality," recalls Alhaji Abubakari Jabaru, Director of Regional Operations and Consumer Services at PURC. "We didn't have real-time visibility. Everything was reactive."



"The DBMS has been a gateway for digital transformation," says Kelvin Kwao, Head of ICT at PURC. "We've moved away from manual processes, and now we are fully digitalized - from complaints handling to workflows, to how we collect and process data."

For the first time, data that once sat in silos across departments is brought together in one place. That has changed not only how information is stored, but how it is used.

"We now have a central place for storing all information," Kwao adds. "It allows us to analyze data in a more holistic way and report more effectively."

Before the system was introduced, regional offices submitted data manually, sometimes weeks or months late. Verifying it required follow-ups. Trend analysis was limited. Decisions were often based on incomplete or delayed information.

Now, according to Jabaru, “data consolidation that used to take weeks now happens in seconds.”

Reporting cycles have been reduced by as much as 70–80%, freeing staff to focus less on chasing paperwork and more on oversight and enforcement.

But the most important shift is not speed -- it is how the regulator operates. “We’ve moved from reactive enforcement to proactive regulation,” Jabaru says. “We can detect service failures early and intervene before problems escalate.”

That shift is increasingly visible to the people the system is meant to serve.

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“I used to walk to the complaints office to file my case,” says Brenda Owusu Agbo, a PURC customer in Accra. “Now I can sit in the comfort of my home and do it with my smartphone, and I can track how my complaint is being handled. It gets resolved faster.”

”

Others describe similar experiences. “I lodged a complaint from home, and my problem was resolved quickly. It took just a day,” says Mama Araba Baiden, another PURC customer.

At the institutional level, PURC officials say the DBMS has fundamentally changed how complaints are handled. Cases are now logged, tracked, and escalated digitally, with clearer timelines and accountability. In some cases, regulators can identify clusters of outages or service failures within hours, prompting immediate engagement with utilities.

“We don’t wait for problems to pile up,” explains Dr. Shafic Suleman, Executive Secretary of PURC. “We see them as they happen and act immediately.”

The result is faster response times, greater transparency, and a growing sense among consumers that the system is working for them.

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“It gives us a 360-degree view of what is happening,” Suleman says.

“It has made data consolidation, audits, and transparency much easier,” Suleman adds.

Beyond customer service, however, the deeper transformation is happening in how regulation itself is carried out.

The DBMS allows PURC to monitor quality of service across the country in near real time tracking outages, billing issues, and utility performance in ways that were not previously possible. For a regulator whose mandate includes both tariff-setting and service oversight, that matters.

With better data, PURC is better positioned to link tariffs to actual service delivery, enforce performance standards, and hold utilities accountable for commitments made under Performance Improvement Plans. Digital audit trails also strengthen transparency, making it easier to trace decisions back to verifiable evidence.

PURC leadership is quick to note that this transformation did not come from technology alone.

AfDB's support included training in database management, cybersecurity, and data governance allowing staff to operate and maintain the system internally. That ownership is critical for sustainability, especially as the Commission moves into a second phase focused on deeper integration, predictive analytics, and real-time monitoring.



"The technology was important, but the real impact came from capacity building," Jabaru says.



"Reliable regulation is critical for investment," Jabaru notes. "With better data and transparency, investors have more confidence, and resources can be directed where they are most needed."

The digitalization effort is also closely tied to Ghana's broader energy ambitions.

Under its National Energy Compact, Ghana aims to expand electricity access, strengthen utility performance, and improve financial sustainability in the sector. A more data-driven regulator is central to that vision helping enforce reforms, guide investment decisions, and build confidence among investors.

At the continental level, the implications are even broader. Mission 300 depends not only on new infrastructure, but also on credible institutions that can manage increasingly complex energy systems.

Ghana's experience is already drawing attention Regulators from countries such as **Tanzania, Uganda, and Zanzibar have visited Accra** to learn from PURC's approach - an example of peer learning that could accelerate reform across the continent.

Still, **officials acknowledge that digitalization is not a silver bullet.**

Challenges remain data quality, system integration, staff capacity, and financing for maintenance and upgrades. And broader sector issues, such as system losses and tariff reforms, will require sustained policy effort.

Digital tools, they say, do not solve these problems on their own, but they make them easier to understand and address.

Looking ahead, PURC is already planning the next phase of its transformation: integrating utility systems, deploying predictive analytics, and building real-time monitoring platforms that could give regulators a live view of service delivery across the country. "The goal is to become a fully digital regulator," Jabaru says.

For now, the changes may appear incremental. But for consumers like Brenda and Mama Araba, the difference is already clear. What once required a physical visit can now be done from a phone. What used to take days can now be resolved in hours. And what once felt opaque is becoming more transparent.



Pillar II Power Sector Policy, Regulation, and Planning

In 2025, AESTAP continued working with governments and regulators to strengthen the policy, regulatory, and planning frameworks that guide the development of national power systems. Across several countries, technical assistance focused on equipping regulatory institutions with the tools and systems needed to enhance technical, economic, and legal regulation and promote effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable sector oversight aligned with international best practices.

In Djibouti, through the Multi-sector Regulatory Authority (ARMD); in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), through the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ARE); in Madagascar, through the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ARELEC); and in Lesotho, through the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA), AESTAP is supporting the development of key regulatory instruments, including Cost-of-Service Studies (CoSS), tariff methodologies and tariff-setting guidelines, single- and multi-year tariff review frameworks, grid and network connection regulations, quality-of-service (QoS) standards and regulations, and related capacity-building programs. These interventions are helping regulators establish transparent tariff-setting processes, strengthen oversight of utility performance, improve grid access frameworks, and enhance the overall effectiveness of sector regulation.

In the Central African Republic, AESTAP also launched a dedicated initiative to strengthen the institutional capacity of the electricity regulator. The project aims to modernize regulatory processes, introduce improved licensing and performance monitoring systems, and create a secure sector data management platform.

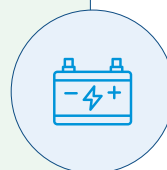
By improving transparency and regulatory credibility, these reforms are expected to help attract private investment and support the country's efforts to expand electricity access in line with Mission 300 objectives.



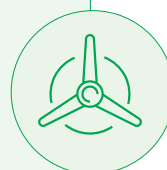
Djibouti, DRC, Madagascar and Lesotho are strengthening Electricity Sector Economic and Technical Regulation



Senegal finalized its just Energy Transition Investment Plan under the AETC program



Nigeria completed feasibility and grid-readiness studies for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) integration under the AETC program



Tunisia initiated preparatory activities for an offshore wind feasibility study under the AETC program

Beyond regulatory strengthening, the initiative also supported national planning efforts linked to the energy transition. Through the AETC program, technical assistance contributed to the preparation of Senegal's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, which provides a strategic roadmap for decarbonizing the country's power sector while maintaining energy affordability and supporting economic growth. The plan was completed and validated in 2025 and is expected to guide the next phase of Senegal's energy sector investments.

Further work supported Nigeria's energy transition agenda through the development of feasibility studies for BESS and variable renewable energy integration. The studies assessed grid readiness, proposed commercial and procurement frameworks for private sector participation, and provided guidance on the policy and regulatory conditions required to deploy storage technologies at scale. These analyses represent an important step toward improving grid stability and enabling higher penetration of renewable energy in one of Africa's largest electricity markets.

In Tunisia, AETC is supporting the implementation of the JET Strategy (2035) through financing a feasibility study for an offshore wind site (250–500 MW) with storage. The site was identified in 2025, while wind measurement campaigns using floating LiDAR, along with economic, financial, and environmental and social assessments and capacity-building activities, are planned for 2026.

Additional upstream work also advanced in Mauritania, where AETC-supported technical assistance focused on land-use planning, the development of an auction framework for green hydrogen projects, and the preparation of regulatory and planning tools for this emerging sector. Additional activities, including the development of a one-stop administrative window for hydrogen projects are expected to be implemented in 2026.

Overall, activities under this pillar show how upstream support is laying the foundation for advancing sector reform. By strengthening regulatory institutions, improving planning tools, and supporting national energy transition strategies, AESTAP is helping countries create the enabling environments needed to mobilize investment and accelerate electricity access.

These reforms are particularly important for the implementation of National Energy Compacts under Mission 300. Electrification at scale requires not only new infrastructure but also credible regulatory frameworks, financially viable utilities, and transparent market rules that allow both public and private investment to flow. The work undertaken in 2025 therefore contributes directly to building the institutional foundations needed to deliver sustainable electricity access across the continent.

While strong regulatory frameworks are essential, the long-term success of energy sector reforms ultimately depends on the institutions responsible for delivering electricity. This makes the performance and financial sustainability of utilities a central priority.



IMPACT STORY

AfDB Honored for Supporting Nigeria's "Electricity on Demand" Vision

The AfDB has been recognized by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) for its exemplary contribution to advancing Nigeria's energy reform agenda and supporting the Commission's Electricity on Demand vision.

The award, presented during NERC's 20th Anniversary Celebration in Abuja on October 30–31, 2025, highlights the Bank's sustained leadership in strengthening regulatory systems through AESTAP.

In presenting the recognition, NERC cited the AfDB's pivotal support in implementing the Electricity Act 2023, notably in developing transitional guidelines that enable the smooth transfer of regulatory oversight from the national to emerging State Electricity Regulators. The Bank also supported the delineation of distribution assets across states, a critical step toward operationalizing the state electricity markets envisioned by the new law.

AfDB's Director General for the Nigeria Country office, Dr. Abdul Kamara, said the recognition reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to institutional and policy reform in Africa's energy sector.



"This honor reflects the Bank's belief that robust, transparent, and well-coordinated regulation is central to achieving sustainable energy access. We are proud to support Nigeria's transition under the Electricity Act and remain committed to deepening reforms that bring reliable power closer to the people," he said.



“Our partnership with NERC demonstrates how targeted technical assistance under AESTAP can turn policy into action. From the ERI to state-level market frameworks, Nigeria is setting a benchmark for effective reform and inclusive energy governance,”

“This recognition underscores the importance of sustained collaboration between regulators, policymakers, and financiers. We must continue this momentum to accelerate the delivery of reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity across Africa,” added Shonibare.

Echoing this, Mr. Wale Shonibare, whose department (PESR) oversees most of the energy regulatory work in the AfDB, stated that the collaboration with NERC serves as a model for regional replication.

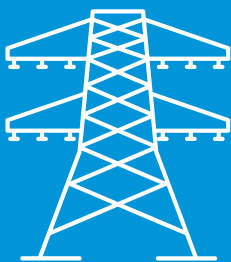
The Bank’s ongoing collaboration with NERC, supported by the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), is advancing a broad reform agenda through AESTAP Nigeria, the AfDB is backing a broad reform agenda to make power more reliable, affordable, and investment-ready. The program is helping implement the Electricity Act 2023 by supporting State Electricity Priority Plans and state-level regulators; advancing battery energy storage (BESS) feasibility to stabilize the grid and integrate renewables; and accelerating mini-grids. It is strengthening institutional capacity and operationalizing Compact Delivery and Monitoring Units to track reforms toward Mission 300. Guided by ERI insights, AESTAP also supports Nigeria’s nationwide smart-metering rollout to cut losses, improve tariff integrity, boost utility finances, and rebuild consumer trust.



The Indorama Fertilizer Plant in Nigeria. Through a dedicated program supporting Nigeria’s energy sector reforms, AESTAP has helped strengthen the country’s regulatory environment. Photo: AfDB.



Pillar 3 of AESTAP aims to improve the operational performance, governance, and financial sustainability of electricity utilities across Africa. Photo: AfDB.



Pillar III Sustainable Utility Transformation

Under this pillar, AESTAP's mandate is to provide targeted interventions to improve the operational performance, governance, and financial sustainability of electricity utilities across Africa. These efforts are particularly important as countries expand electricity connections under national programs and Mission 300, where long-term electrification outcomes depend not only on infrastructure expansion but also on utilities capable of delivering reliable, efficient, and financially sustainable services.

In 2025, AESTAP initiated support for the development of a metering rollout scheme in Nigeria aimed at strengthening electricity metering infrastructure and improving revenue assurance. With a metering gap affecting over 60% of consumers and contributing to high technical and commercial losses, the initiative is expected to improve billing efficiency, reduce losses, strengthen liquidity in the Nigeria Electricity Supply Industry (NESI), and support ongoing market reforms, including state-level electricity market development.

Some initially planned interventions under this pillar were adjusted during the year to reflect evolving national priorities and the rollout of country-led reform program, ensuring continued alignment with government priorities. For example, in Angola, AESTAP will support the rural electrification plan under the 2026 work program, focusing on strengthening planning and implementation frameworks to expand electricity access in rural and peri-urban areas in line with national priorities.

In parallel, under Mission 300, AESTAP will continue to support utility performance improvements in RMCs such as Gabon, with implementation targeted for 2026. Key interventions include network reliability and performance enhancement studies aimed at restructuring the MV/LV distribution network to reduce technical and commercial losses and increase utility revenues, as well as strengthening transmission infrastructure in Libreville to improve supply reliability, reduce outages, and ensure stable evacuation of generated power.



Pillar IV Regional Integration and Power Market Development

In 2025, AESTAP continued supporting initiatives that strengthen regional electricity markets and cross-border energy cooperation across Africa. Through regulatory harmonization, regional planning tools, and shared data platforms, the program is helping create the institutional conditions that allow countries to trade electricity and optimize regional energy resources. As the continent accelerates efforts to expand access under Mission 300, regional integration is becoming an increasingly important mechanism for reducing costs, improving system reliability, and unlocking new investment opportunities.

One of the most notable achievements during the year was progress in the harmonization of electricity regulation across the COMESA region. Through a technical assistance initiative implemented by the COMESA Secretariat and its regional association of energy regulators, RAERESA, the AfDB supported the development and rollout of a regional regulatory framework designed to align electricity market rules across member states. This effort has produced several key tools, including a harmonized regulatory framework for electricity markets, a utility performance monitoring system based on shared key performance indicators, a tariff comparison and cost-reflectivity assessment model, and a centralized regional energy information platform launched in 2025.

These instruments are already helping regulators and utilities benchmark performance, compare tariff structures, and improve transparency across national electricity systems. More importantly, they are creating a common regulatory language across countries—an essential condition for enabling cross-border electricity trade and attracting private investment in regional power infrastructure. The initiative has been widely recognized by regional leaders. At their 2025 summit, COMESA Heads of State commended the AfDB for its support in advancing regional regulatory harmonization and called for continued collaboration to deepen the reforms and support their adoption at the national level.

AESTAP's regional work also complements broader initiatives supported under the AETC program. The regional market study on enhancing VRE export capacity between Namibia and Botswana under the Mega Solar Initiative has been completed. It examines how regional markets can accommodate higher shares of renewable energy while improving



**COMESA advanced
regional energy
harmonization**



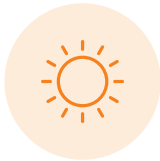
**Regional utility
benchmarking
system launched**



**Shared tariff
comparison tools
introduced**



**ZiZaBoNa
interconnector
project preparation
advanced under the
AETC program**



**Namibia-Botswana
Regional Market
study on VRE
capacity completed
under the AETC
program**



**The SAPP
commercial credit
enhancement
market analysis
study completed
under the AETC
program**



**Launch of the
EAPP Master
Plan Update**

the efficiency of cross-border power trade. In addition, analytical work supporting the structuring of the RTIFF and a market analysis of the SAPP merchant market are being developed to inform the design of this facility, with the aim of unlocking private investment in cross-border transmission through blended finance. Under this pillar, AETC is facilitating project preparation through feasibility studies, environmental and social assessments, and financial advisory services for major regional projects such as the ZiZaBoNa interconnector.

Further support initiated in 2025 for implementation in 2026 includes (i) the development of a SAPP Energy Storage Strategy and investment plan to support renewable integration, grid stability, and cross-border power trade; and (ii) the update of the EAPP Master Plan (2026–2046), covering 11 member countries. The plan will be based on harmonized demand forecasts and common generation and transmission planning criteria to identify priority cross-border investments and ensure reliable regional power supply. It also contributes to the Continental Power Systems Master Plan and supports the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) integration agenda.

For many African countries—particularly smaller or resource-constrained systems—regional markets offer an opportunity to access lower-cost electricity, balance supply and demand more efficiently, and improve system reliability. By supporting the technical, regulatory, and institutional frameworks required for cross-border energy exchange, AESTAP is helping create the conditions under which these benefits can be realized.

As Mission 300 moves from policy commitments to implementation, regional integration will play an increasingly important role in expanding electricity access across the continent. Integrated markets allow countries to share generation resources, optimize investment in infrastructure, and deliver electricity more affordably to households and businesses. Through its support for regional planning, regulatory harmonization, and market development, AESTAP is helping ensure that cross-border cooperation becomes a practical and increasingly important driver of Africa's energy transition and large-scale electrification efforts.



AESTAP supported COMESA's efforts to harmonize energy regulation, helping advance regional electricity market integration. Photo: AfDB.

IMPACT STORY

How AfDB's USD 1.5m Technical Assistance is Harmonizing Energy Regulation in COMESA Region

In Eastern and Southern Africa, electricity doesn't just depend on how much power a country produces. It also depends on how well countries can work together. For years, that has been the harder part.

Different rules. Different tariff systems. Different ways of measuring how utilities perform. Even when power existed in one country, getting it across the border to where it was needed was not always straightforward.

Two years on, the changes are beginning to show. "The impact of this USD 1.5 million is far-reaching," says Dr. Mohamedain Seif Elnasr, former CEO of the Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA), who led the effort through the COMESA Secretariat.

What the project set out to do was not build power plants or transmission lines. It focused instead on something less visible, but just as critical: the rules that govern how electricity systems function across borders.

At its core, the project tackled fragmentation. Across the COMESA region, countries have historically regulated electricity in different ways. That makes cross-border trade harder, and it raises uncertainty for investors.

"We now have a harmonized framework for comparing tariffs, monitoring utility performance, and a centralized energy data system," Dr. Mohamedain explains. "These are essential building blocks for regional integration."

Those “building blocks” came together in four key areas.



“We now have transparent, investment-friendly tariff structures that promote regional integration,” Dr. Mohamedain says. “Ultimately, this will lead to improved electricity security and service delivery.”

“With clear data, standardized indicators, and consistent regulation, we reduce the risks that often deter private sector players,” he adds.

First, regulators now have a shared set of guidelines. Countries are not forced into a single model, but they are working from the same playbook. That alone begins to reduce friction.

Second, utilities can now be compared using the same performance indicators. For the first time, there is a common way to assess how electricity providers are doing across countries. That brings a level of transparency that was previously missing.

Third, and perhaps most sensitive, is tariffs. Electricity pricing has always been politically and economically complex. But without some level of alignment, cross-border trade struggles.

And finally, there is data. In March 2025, the region launched a centralized energy information system. It sounds technical, but its role is simple: make reliable data available to governments, regulators, and investors in one place.

Why this matters now

The timing is not accidental. Across Africa, energy has moved to the center of economic policy. Governments are under pressure to expand access, support industry, and respond to growing demand.

But infrastructure alone is not enough. Without predictable rules and clear information, large-scale investment tends to hesitate.

“We can open to more investments in the energy sector,” Dr. Mohamedain says. “That’s really what this is about—making the environment more predictable.”

It is still early to point to specific projects that exist because of these reforms. But there are early signals of interest, particularly as countries continue to prioritize energy.

Linking to a bigger continental push

The work in COMESA also ties into a broader continental ambition. Under the Mission 300 initiative led by the AfDB and the World Bank, African leaders have committed to connecting 300 million people to electricity by 2030. COMESA alone is expected to account for around 100 million of those connections.

That scale of ambition depends, in part, on making regional power trade work. “This harmonization effort strengthens the foundations needed for energy trade,” Dr. Mohamedain says, pointing to regional power pools such as the Southern African Power Pool and the emerging Eastern Africa Power Pool.

“Trade in electricity enables countries to defer generation investments and ensures surplus power can be shared with deficit areas.” In other words, instead of every country trying to build everything on its own, they can rely more on each other.

The harder part comes next

For all the progress, much of the real work is still ahead. The frameworks have been adopted at the regional level, including by the COMESA Council of Ministers. But they now need to be translated into national laws, regulations, and everyday practice.

That next phase domestication is often where reforms slow down. It requires political will, institutional capacity, and sustained support. The AfDB is already looking at how to extend its technical assistance to support that process.



“We now need to support member states to adapt these guidelines into national policies and practices,” Dr. Mohamedain says. “Only then will we realize the full benefits.”



Engineer Ahmed Ali Mohamed at the Ain Sokhna 1,300 MW Supercritical Thermal Power Plant in Egypt. While the AfDB finances transformative energy infrastructure, AESTAP complements these investments by strengthening the policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks that enable sustainable, reliable power systems across Africa. Photo: AfDB.

SPOTLIGHT: TEN YEARS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR AT THE AFDB

A Q&A with Wale Shonibare



Wale Shonibare

Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy
and Regulation Department

Over the past decade, the AfDB has shifted its approach to supporting Africa's energy sector—from providing technical assistance tied largely to individual projects to a more strategic focus on policy, regulation, planning, data, and investment readiness.

The change reflects a broader recognition that the continent's energy challenges are not driven by financing alone. Weak regulatory frameworks,

limited institutional capacity, fragmented data, and uncertain investment environments have often slowed progress, even where funding was available. Technical assistance has therefore become increasingly central to helping countries strengthen institutions, implement reforms, and create the conditions needed to attract investment.

This upstream work is also gaining influence beyond the Bank. Tools such as the Electricity



AfDB staff at the launch of the inaugural ERI in 2019. Photo: AfDB.

Regulatory Index (ERI) are now used by institutions including the World Bank and the African Union, while private investors and developers increasingly rely on them to assess markets and investment opportunities. Even so, translating stronger policies and regulatory frameworks into sustained reforms and bankable projects remains an ongoing challenge.

Since joining the Bank in 2017, Wale Shonibare, Director of Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation, has led the development of flagship

initiatives including the ERI, the Africa Energy Marketplace (AEMP), and the African Energy Portal (AEP), while helping shape broader programs such as AESTAP.

Today, these initiatives underpin Mission 300 by supporting national energy compacts, policy reforms, and partner coordination. In this interview, Shonibare reflects on the evolution of technical assistance, the lessons learned, and its growing role in advancing Africa's energy transition.

Question: Can you give us a history of the PESR department in the AfDB?



The strategy document led to the establishment of a dedicated energy complex. At that time, the complex had five departments reporting to the Vice President, and I was the first director hired for PESR Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation.

The department was designed with two divisions: one focused on upstream work—policy, regulation, and statistics—and the other on financial solutions. That was the template I was given, but none of these divisions had staff at the outset.

Question: Looking back 10 years, what was the state of technical assistance in the energy sector before this new architecture?



Technical assistance was mostly packaged with lending operations. That's the standard MDB model—you approve a loan and attach a small technical assistance component to support it. But that support was very narrow. It focused on what was needed to deliver the project—feasibility studies, project preparation, or implementation support. What was missing

was broader, upstream work at the sector level. Areas like energy planning, sector restructuring, regulation, and IPP procurement programs were not being addressed systematically. At that time, institutions like the World Bank and a few bilateral donors were leading in that space. Meanwhile, we were receiving increasing requests from countries for this kind of support.

Question: After you arrived in 2017, when did that upstream work start to become more structured?



The structure was already embedded in the organogram. We had three pillars: policy, regulation, and statistics, but no predefined programs. So I had to define what each pillar would deliver.

We started with regulation. The key question was: how do we support regulators across Africa in a consistent way? It became clear that there was limited peer learning and no benchmarking against international best practice. That's what led to the creation of the Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI).

Question: Can you take us back to the origins of the Africa Energy Marketplace (AEMP) and share some of the key lessons you've learned from building it over the years?



The idea for AEMP emerged from a recurring challenge we saw across Africa's energy sector. While the Bank was financing projects and supporting policy dialogue, many investments struggled to move forward because the underlying policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks were not yet in place. Through our Country Strategy Papers, we found similar bottlenecks across many countries, so we created AEMP as a platform where governments, regulators, investors, development partners and utilities could work together on practical solutions.

One of our biggest lessons was that dialogue alone is not enough. Countries appreciated the recommendations from tools like the Electricity

Regulatory Index (ERI), but many lacked the resources to implement them. That realization led to the creation of AESTAP, which provides the technical assistance needed to turn reforms into action.

We also learned that ownership is critical. Moving AEMP from Abidjan to host countries after the pandemic made discussions more relevant and encouraged governments to take greater ownership of the reform agenda. Finally, we learned that technical assistance must go beyond diagnostics—it has to support implementation, build local capacity and create lasting institutional change.

Question: And on the policy side what lessons stand out?



With AEMP, we introduced the idea of country compacts commitments by governments to implement specific reforms.

Over time, that approach proved useful. When Mission 300 was developed in collaboration with

the World Bank, those ideas were scaled up.

What we had been doing at a country level through AEMP became the foundation for a continental initiative national energy compacts, the Africa Energy Summit, and a shared roadmap for reform.

Question: Let's turn to data and knowledge. How did that evolve?



We realized early on that you cannot plan effectively without reliable data. At the time, most data on Africa's energy sector was held by institutions outside the continent. There was no single platform where you could access consolidated information. That's why we created the AEP.

The idea was not to reinvent the wheel, but to bring information together in one place—country profiles, key statistics, and links to relevant

institutions. It made it easier for investors and researchers to navigate the sector.

We saw immediate value. For example, a consulting firm in Japan told us they were able to assess investment opportunities across Africa without traveling.

The challenge remains data quality and updates. We are working with partners to improve how data is collected and maintained. So AEP is still evolving.

Question: What would you say has been the biggest success over the past 10 years?



The biggest success is the Bank's positioning in the energy sector. Ten years ago, AfDB was not widely seen as a leader in this space. Today, that perception has changed.

It's not one initiative it's the combination of ERI,

AEMP, AEP, and the broader work of the energy complex.

Clients now come to us not just for financing, but for leadership and expertise. Internally, the energy team has also built a strong reputation.

Question: How does upstream technical assistance translate into actual electricity connections?



Mission 300 is a clear example of that link. We support countries in developing national energy compacts, covering areas like generation, interconnections, mini-grids, and utility reform.

These compacts provide a structured roadmap. Then we mobilize support—from ourselves, from partners, and from the private sector—to implement them.

In the past, donors often worked independently. Now, countries have a framework that aligns those efforts.

We're also building capacity within governments through delivery and monitoring units. That helps ensure that reforms are implemented. So upstream work creates the foundation for downstream investment.

Question: Are there examples where technical assistance has led to private investment?



Yes, although these outcomes take time. Egypt is a strong example—reforms supported by the Bank have helped attract significant private sector investment.

In other cases, we are still at earlier stages. For example, feasibility work on offshore wind in Tunisia or battery storage in Nigeria is expected to lead to investment down the line. These processes take time, but the pipeline is there.

Question: How important has SEFA been?



Extremely important. Without SEFA, we would not have had the resources to support this work. Administrative budgets alone would not have been sufficient.

SEFA also plays a role downstream, particularly through blended finance, helping make projects more viable.

Question: Do you think Mission 300 is achievable?



Yes, we are making good progress. Africa is already one of the fastest-growing markets for solar. With the right policies and investments, we can accelerate access significantly.

The goal is certainly ambitious, but ambition is crucial. It creates alignment and momentum.

Electricity is fundamental. Without it, Africa cannot fully participate in the global economy.



Question: What will the next generation of energy reforms in Africa require?



Energy development needs to be approached at a continental scale. Africa has enormous potential, but fragmentation limits what we can achieve. Large projects require regional integration and coordinated planning.

We need interconnected power systems and investments that go beyond national boundaries. That's the direction we need to move in.

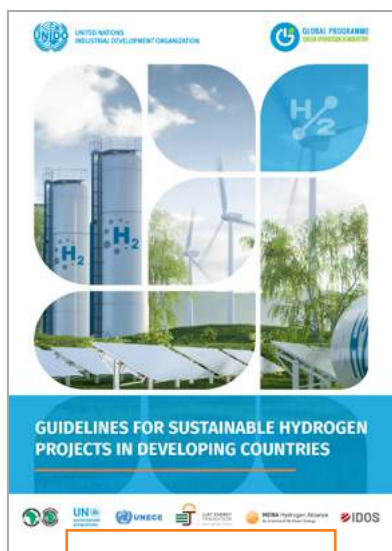
AWARDS

NERC Award to AfDB for Supporting Energy Vision

This award was presented to the AfDB in recognition of its contribution to Nigeria's energy sector. Through AESTAP, the Bank has rolled out several initiatives in recent years, including support for smart metering, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and policy and regulatory reforms at both the federal and state levels.



PUBLICATIONS



Blogs

- [From Paper Files to Real-Time Data: How Digitalization is Changing Regulation in Ghana \(20 December 2025\)](#)
- [From Implicit to Explicit: Strengthening Africa's Electricity Regulatory Index \(ERI\) \(18 December 2025\)](#)
- [Powering Regional Integration: New G20 Best Practices Booklet Charts a Practical Path for Cross-Border Power Systems \(11 December 2025\)](#)
- [From Reform to Results: ERI 2024 Shows Real Regulatory Progress Powering Mission 300 \(13 November 2025\)](#)
- [Mission 300: Accelerating Africa's Path to Universal Energy Access \(01 September 2025\)](#)



An AfDB team at the launch of the 2024 ERI. Photo: AfDB.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



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