



# Clean transitions in **sub-Saharan Africa** can improve energy access, economic development, and climate resilience —

*The IEA's cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa focuses on policy recommendations and capacity building on energy access, data, renewable energy and energy efficiency, finance and climate issues*



South Africa, Kenya and Senegal became IEA Association countries in recent years, enabling the Agency to benefit from their perspectives and deepen cooperation



Support for countries' efforts to achieve universal access to clean energy through data and analysis, and tracking progress on the related UN Sustainable Development Goals



Capacity building through a highly successful training event on energy efficiency, an energy modelling summer school, and involvement of African participants in energy data training sessions




**This plan is more than just an energy strategy; it's a commitment to our planet and future generations."**


**Dr Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu**  
Uganda's Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, on the country's Energy Transition Plan launched in collaboration with the IEA

## Key facts

**1/5<sup>th</sup>**   
**of the world's population**

**3.7%** 


of the world's cumulative energy related **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** to date, the **lowest emissions per capita** of any region

**41%** 

of the total continent's population, or **600 million people lack access to electricity**

**60%**

of the **best solar resources** globally, yet only 1% of installed solar PV capacity

**40%** 

of **global reserves of cobalt, manganese and platinum** has huge potential to produce hydrogen

**970 million Africans lack access to clean cooking**

## ► Regional analysis

Despite being home to nearly one-fifth of the world's population, the African continent currently attracts only 3% of global energy investment. The IEA supports regional policy-making with an increased analytical focus on financing clean transitions including through publications such as [Financing Clean Energy in Africa](#) (September 2023) and [Clean Energy Investment for Development in Africa](#). The reports follow on the success of Africa Energy Outlook 2022 and a series of regional reports on clean energy transitions for the Greater Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa. The IEA also uses its world-class analytical expertise to directly support national policy-making. Some of the most recent accomplishments include analysis of renewable energy opportunities for Mauritania and Namibia and in-depth energy policy reviews for Senegal, Kenya and Uganda. Our close collaboration with Uganda's government stakeholders led to the development of the country's [Energy Transition Plan](#).

## ► Energy access and people-centred transitions in Africa

The IEA's engagement with African governments on energy access is firmly established. The topic features prominently in the IEA's flagship reports and detailed recommendations are presented to governments across the region. African stakeholders actively participate in the Global Commission on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions and the IEA Clean Energy Labour Council. The IEA also continues its long-standing role as co-custodian of the UN's energy-related Sustainable Development Goals, co-leading the annual Tracking SDG 7 report, where we contribute the official statistics on energy efficiency and renewables, and projections for access to electricity and clean cooking by 2030. The report, *A Vision for Clean Cooking Access for All* (July 2023), paved the way for the [first-ever high-level Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa](#) which mobilised \$2.2 billion in financial pledges from governments and the private sector in an effort to make 2024 a tipping point for access to clean cooking.



— Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa, May 2024

## ► Capacity building on energy modelling and energy efficiency

The success of energy transitions depends on the capacity of African countries to define and deliver their own roadmaps for development. The IEA has worked on building modelling capacity for Ministries of Energy in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia. In July 2023, the IEA and its partners brought together 52 participants from the same countries for the second part of this training, which focused on integrated energy planning and geospatial tools to support the modelling effort. The IEA also built on the success of a previous online energy efficiency training organised with the African Development Bank. In March 2024, nearly 200 policy-makers from across Africa attended the IEA Energy Efficiency Training Week in Nairobi. Held in partnership with the Government of Kenya, the four-day event brought together national and regional policy-makers to discuss how energy efficiency can accelerate Africa's clean energy efforts. The training received excellent feedback from participants, highlighting its success and impact.

## Opportunities for engagement

- Advancing energy efficiency**  
 The IEA will continue to organize events such as the Training Week for sub-Saharan Africa and the annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, an action-oriented forum for decision-makers from around the world with an increasing emphasis on Africa. We will also continue to provide tailored policy advice and collect crowd-sourced data on appliances to promote policy instruments for large-scale deployment of efficient appliances and equipment.
- Catalysing clean cooking programmes**  
 The IEA will support the development of national clean cooking roadmaps following the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa.
- Africa investment guide for access and grids**  
 The IEA will deliver analysis of policies required to increase the construction of, and access to, grids in support of the clean energy transition.

This work is supported by the **Clean Energy Transitions Programme**, the IEA's flagship programme for taking action to achieve a clean energy transformation worldwide.

Last updated: December 2024

Want to know more?

- **Bookmark the CETP webpage** | <https://bit.ly/iea-cetp>
- **Subscribe to the CETP Newsletter** | [www.iea.org/newsletter](http://www.iea.org/newsletter)
- **Engage with IEA social media** | [X](#) [in](#) [o](#) [f](#) [@](#)
- **Contact** | [cetp@iea.org](mailto:cetp@iea.org)

