

Africa energy outlook

Paris, 8 November, 2019

Context

- With rising population, urbanisation and industrialisation, Africa is increasingly influential for global energy trends.
- Renewables and natural gas are acting as an accelerator to development in a few countries, but in many others, energy remains a brake to development:
 - Access to electricity and clean cooking remains elusive.
 - Investment in power infrastructures among the lowest in the world.
 - Traditional use of biomass dominates the energy mix.
- Five years after the IEA's first special report on Africa, we return to take an in-depth look at Africa's energy sector, with two prominent features:
 - Individual analysis of 11 countries representing three-quarters of the continent's GDP
 - Africa Case: an analysis of how the energy sector can deliver the sustainable development goals and spur economic growth ambitions of Agenda 2063

Africa: home to more than 2 billion people by 2040



Africa's population increases by 800 million to 2040, 70% of the growth is in cities - the largest scale of urbanisation in history. By 2040, the average age in Africa is 12 years younger than the global average.

A major shift towards modern and efficient energy mix



The continent can fuel an economy four-times larger than today with only 50% more energy, driven by a major shift towards modern energy sources such as renewables and natural gas and efficiency improvements

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Renewables push ahead to power Africa's brighter future

Electricity demand in Africa

Electricity generation in Africa



Electricity demand growth potential is large, primarily from emerging middle classes and productive uses; renewables provide over half of electricity with solar PV becoming the second largest source of generation

Mobilising investment – challenging but achievable



Achieving Africa's ambition requires almost a fourfold increase in power sector investment, to around \$120 billion a year, with the vast majority going to low-carbon generation and grid networks

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Natural gas is facing a potential turning point in Africa



Recent discoveries across the continent could fit well with Africa's push for industrial growth and its need for reliable electricity, but developing infrastructure requires strong policy supports

Future hydrocarbon revenues under pressure



African producers face a world where markets for their ample resources are not guaranteed; the need for transparent revenue management and economic diversification is greater than ever

Crucial linkage between African minerals and global energy transition



Share of Africa in global minerals production, 2018

Share of minerals in product exports in Africa, 2017



Responsible and sustainable development of Africa's mineral resources is vital for Africa's economic outcomes and global energy transitions

Not a major emitter, but climate change matters greatly for Africa



While Africa is responsible for a small portion of global CO₂ emissions, it suffers greatly from the impacts of climate change, underlining the importance of climate-resilient infrastructure

- Africa's young, fast growing and increasingly urban population is set to drive the continent's economic and energy development as well as global energy trends.
- Thanks to technology improvements and resource endowments, Africa has the unique opportunity to build its development on cleaner energies such as renewables and gas.
- A critical task for policymakers is to address the persistent lack of access to electricity and clean cooking, and the unreliability of electricity supply.
- Building a reliable power system requires a significant scale-up in investment; mobilising capital is a challenging undertaking, but can be achievable with adequate policy measures.
- Achieving the outcomes of the Africa Case would be neither energy-intensive nor emissions-intensive thanks to stronger roles of energy efficiency and clean energies.
- Although not a major emitter, Africa is in the front line for the effects of a changing climate. Energy infrastructure planning must be climate-resilient.

https://www.iea.org/Africa2019



