



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

*The IEA's cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa focuses on policy recommendations and capacity building for energy security, renewable energy, energy access, 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 sub-Saharan Africa's efforts to achieve universal access to clean energy through data and analysis, and tracking progress on the related UN SDGs



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



**I am delighted with IEA's decision to welcome Senegal into the IEA Family as an Association country. This demonstrates, if proof were needed, the relevance of the choices made by our country. "**

**Sophie Aïssatou Gladima**  
Senegal's Minister for Petroleum and Energy

## Key facts

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

**3%**

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

**43%**

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, sub-Saharan Africa is the least studied region in terms of its energy systems. The IEA supports regional policy-making and global insights with analytical studies, including the *Africa Energy Outlook 2022*, which presented the first-ever Sustainable Africa Scenario, exploring cost-effective pathways to achieve universal access to electricity and clean cooking, and to meet all African climate pledges in full and on time. We also produced a series of regional reports on clean energy transitions for the Greater Horn of Africa (2022), the Sahel (2021), and North Africa (2022). In 2023, we published energy policy reviews for Senegal and Uganda and the report *A Vision for Clean Cooking Access for All*. We also delivered reports on hydrogen and renewable energy development in Mauritania and Namibia, and an analysis of clean energy finance in Africa, presented at the Climate Action Summit in Nairobi in September 2023.

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

IEA cooperation with African governments on energy access is firmly established. The topic features prominently in the IEA's flagship reports, such as the *World Energy Outlook*, and detailed recommendations are presented to governments across the region. African stakeholders are active participants in the Global Commission on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions and the IEA Clean Energy Labour Council, the first meeting of which was co-chaired by Bheki Ntshalintshali, former General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions. 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.



— IEA Executive Director with the President **William Ruto** of Kenya, June 2023

## ► 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 of development. Throughout 2022 and 2023, the IEA has worked on building modelling capacity for Ministries of Energy staff from Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia. In July 2023, the IEA and its partners brought 52 participants from the same countries together for the second part of this training, which focused on integrated energy planning, as well as geospatial tools to support the modelling effort. The IEA and the African Development Bank also conducted a joint training course on energy efficiency to underline the central role that it can play in addressing the global energy crisis and the multiple benefits it can bring to developing economies. A five-day online course at the end of 2022 gathered 300 participants to focus on the advantages efficiency can offer to developing economies by cutting costs and emissions while supporting economic growth.

## Opportunities for engagement

- Deepening cooperation with the region**  
 The IEA is undertaking an in-depth review of Kenya's energy policies, analyzing clean energy developments in Mozambique, conducting research on renewable energy with improved data and market insights, and addressing climate resilience, critical minerals, and clean energy investment in Africa.
- Advancing energy efficiency**  
 We will continue to organize events such as the Training Week for Sub-Saharan Africa for more than 100 participants, 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. The Agency 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**  
 We aim to improve estimates of bioenergy emissions associated with clean cooking, especially methane, to understand greenhouse gas abatement potential for clean cookstoves and to support the use of carbon credits for clean cooking projects.

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.

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