

September 2025

FROM NAIROBI TO ADDIS ABABA

# Africa's journey of climate action and partnership





## Foreword

The first Africa Climate Summit in 2023 marked a defining moment. Rooted in the aspirations of Agenda 2063, it brought forward a distinctly African vision: that climate action, growth and development must advance together, reinforcing one another. Through the *African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action*, we set out a bold agenda of climate-positive growth, anchored in Africa's vast potential and opportunity.

Our task is dual and inseparable. First, we must remain steadfast on the path of modern, green economies, building the industries, jobs and infrastructure that will secure opportunity and dignity for our people. Second, we must press the world to shoulder its fair share in managing the damage already done, and to recognize Africa's rightful place in shaping the global order of the future.

Much has been achieved since 2023. Africa has deepened regional cooperation, pursued collaborative efforts across sectors and strategies, and placed our agenda firmly within global discussions. These steps demonstrate Africa's capacity to lead, to innovate and to mobilize around solutions that reflect our needs and our potential.

Yet, the world around us has changed. Geopolitical tensions, competing global priorities and fragile multilateralism are reshaping what, even two years ago, felt certain. Climate impacts are intensifying and we see them in our daily lives: in failing harvests, rising waters and shifting seasons. We continue to face headwinds – from crippling debt and a persistent shortfall in climate finance to the urgent need to advance adaptation and resilience, without which Africa cannot withstand today's pressures nor thrive tomorrow.

These realities remind us of the task before us: to remain steadfast in building a modern, green and inclusive industrial base at home; to secure Africa's rightful place in the global economy; and to foster the partnerships and solidarity required to confront the growing damage of climate change. Ethiopia, as the host of the second Africa Climate Summit, has rightly chosen to emphasize implementation and finance, turning the vision into concrete steps and underscoring Africa's resolve to move from ambition to action.

This report is offered as a reflection on our path since the inaugural Summit in Nairobi: to consider where we are today, acknowledge the realities we confront, and consider the options ahead. Africa is not a bystander in this moment. We are a continent of choice, of potential and of solutions. With clarity of vision and unity of purpose, we will continue to lead in shaping a global response to the climate crisis that delivers for Africa and for the world.



**H.E. William Samoei Ruto,**  
**PhD, CGH**  
President of the Republic of Kenya

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# Introduction

## Africa's climate-positive growth agenda

The adoption of the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action at the first Africa Climate Summit in 2023 (ACS1) was a political turning point. This action asserted Africa's collective ambition to define its own economic and climate pathway, moving the continent from the margins to the centre of the global response. By placing climate-positive growth at the heart of its vision, the Nairobi Declaration's adoption carried weight not only as a continental consensus but also as a statement of intent to shape the rules and opportunities of the twenty-first century economy.

The vision was, and remains, deliberately dual. It recognizes that Africa must grow its economies to meet the aspirations of its people, while at the same time positioning itself as a hub for global climate solutions. This has meant linking industrialization with renewable energy, harnessing natural endowments responsibly and demonstrating that economic transformation and climate action can reinforce each other. In doing so, the Nairobi Declaration has framed Africa as both a partner and a power in the emerging world order.

Across competitiveness and growth, land use and nature, and systems of transition, Africa is moving forward and working to ease finance constraints. Yet the distance between ambition and delivery remains wide. At its core, this is about responsibility, power and the choices Africa and its partners are making. Africa needs to press its own agenda with urgency, coherence and resolve. That means overcoming fragmentation, accelerating delivery and speaking with a common voice.

In parallel, global partners need to dismantle structural barriers such as high financing costs, debt overhang and trade distortions, while providing support through concessional flows, technology and knowledge. Just as importantly, Africa should be recognized as a co-author of global standards and markets – from carbon trading to green industry – with a seat at the table where the rules of the modern economy are being written. Realizing climate-positive growth will depend on both sides: Africa exercising its agency with determination, and the international system opening space and providing the tools for success.

This report sets out where Africa stands against the vision of the Nairobi Declaration. It examines what that vision means in practice by looking across key sectors, where the promises of the declaration meet the realities of implementation. In doing so, it highlights emerging strengths and persistent gaps, recognizing that Africa's choice – and those of its partners – will ultimately determine whether these ambitions translate into delivery.





## FROM DECLARATION TO DELIVERY

# Sectoral progress review

## Competitiveness and growth

The Nairobi Declaration and ACS1 identified competitiveness, through the key sectors of renewable energy, infrastructure, trade and industry as a foundation for climate-positive growth. Yet, challenges continue in these areas. Africa's manufacturing share of GDP continues to decline, access to affordable finance is constrained by the highest cost of capital in the world, and participation in global value chains remains limited. Regional trade is modest, although more diversified than global, and deficits in energy and infrastructure continue to hold back progress. Despite these challenges, ambition is advancing. Since ACS1, several strategic partnerships have been launched, such as the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII), the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) and Mission 300, linking clean energy with value addition and expanding regional integration. This section examines the current situation across these four foundational areas and the measures required to strengthen and advance Africa's climate-positive industrialization agenda.

## Energy: Closing the gap

Energy is the linchpin of Africa's transformation. It underpins industry, agriculture, digital services and social progress, which is why the Nairobi Declaration set a goal of 300 GW of renewables by 2030. Yet progress toward this target has barely moved. Africa's installed renewable capacity rose from just under 63 GW in 2023 to 67 GW in 2024 – a modest 4.4 GW increase [1]. Over the same period, global renewable capacity jumped from 3,870 GW to almost 4,500 GW [1]. The result is a widening gap – while the world accelerates, Africa risks being left further behind.

The gap is visible across all energy indicators. Electricity access has improved, but still only 61 per cent of Africans are connected [2]. Average energy use in Africa is 4,052 kWh per person, against 21,654 kWh globally [3]. In effect, one-fifth of the world's population consumes less than one-fifth of global energy per capita. The gap is even greater in clean cooking: four in five families still rely on polluting fuels, leading to over 800,000 premature deaths each year and keeping millions trapped in poverty and poor health [4].

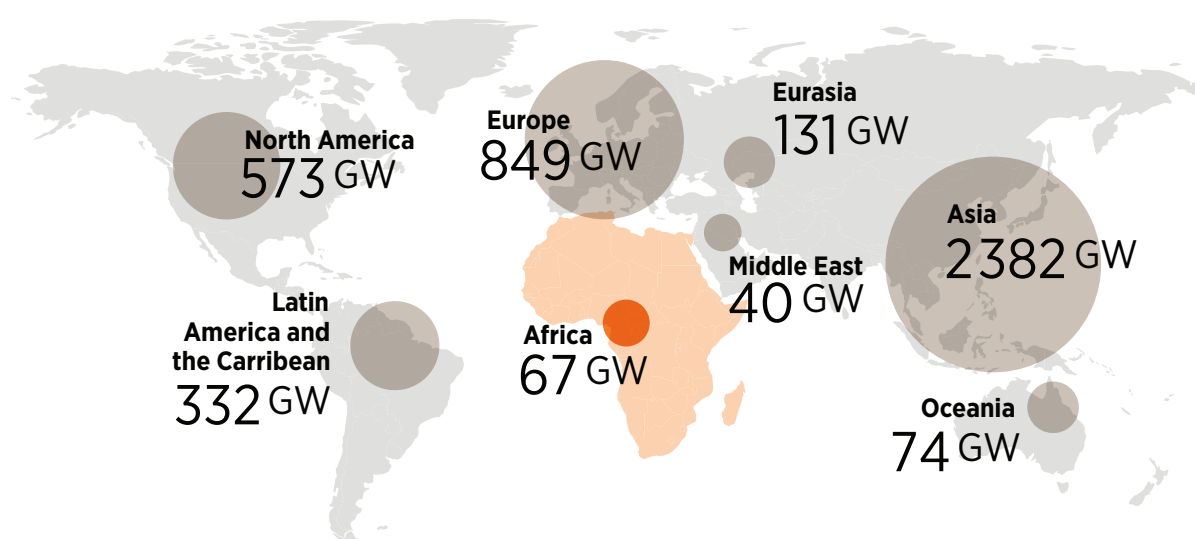
Investment trends highlight the imbalance. Global energy investment exceeded \$3 trillion in 2024, with more than \$2 trillion going to clean energy, including renewables, grids and storage. Africa accounted for about 7 per cent of this global total, with roughly 5 per cent going to fossil fuels and 2 per cent to clean energy. Progress has been made in clean energy on the continent, with investment more than doubling in the past five years to reach \$40 billion in 2024 [5]. Nevertheless, deployment remains far below what is possible, given immense untapped potential and the fact that technologies such as solar photovoltaic panels (PV) are already the least-cost power source in many African countries.

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# 61%

Population  
with access to  
electricity

### Africa holds only 1.5% of global renewable energy capacity



Source: IRENA





The Nairobi Declaration's 300 GW goal was designed to close this gap. Africa's extraordinary endowments – from solar and wind to hydro and geothermal – require a major scale-up. Other regions have shown that rapid expansion is possible: China expanded its renewable capacity twentyfold in two decades, while India tripled its renewables from 70 to 230 GW within a decade, and Brazil scaled hydro, wind and bioenergy to almost 200 GW. The question is whether Africa can mobilize the financing, infrastructure and political alignment to replicate that momentum.

## Infrastructure: The backbone of transformation

Infrastructure remains one of Africa's most pressing challenges. Expanding modern, climate-resilient systems – from transport and water to digital networks – is essential to competitiveness and growth. High financing costs, often two to three times higher than in advanced economies, make investment difficult; however, the opportunity is clear – bridging the infrastructure gap could raise Africa's GDP growth by an estimated two percentage points per year [6].

Internal African infrastructure connectivity is as crucial as global market linkages, as is digital connectivity across Africa. Intra-continental infrastructure is central to building integrated value chains and competitive industries. Roads in Africa carry at least 80 per cent of its goods and 90 per cent of its passengers [7]. However, only 43 per cent of the continent's roads are paved, with 30 per cent of these located in South Africa [8]. The continent's 60,000 km of operational railway is concentrated in southern and northern Africa, largely within 1,000 km of the coast [9]. Together, these deficiencies keep trade costs high, fragment markets and hinder regional integration.

Infrastructure also underpins the digital economy. Africa's young and connected population has spurred the expansion of mobile networks and internet access, highlighting the intrinsic link between digital infrastructure and economic opportunity. Internet usage has surged, bringing over 37 per cent of the population online, although this still trails the global average of nearly 68 per cent [10]. Mobile broadband coverage reached 86 per cent of the population, with mobile phones remaining the primary internet access point for most Africans [10]. Strategic investment in fibre-optic backbones, data centres and rural digital connectivity will be key to unlocking the full potential of Africa's burgeoning digital economy.

Africa's infrastructure gap is considerable, and closing it is essential to unlock the continent's potential and ensure that it can sustain worsening climate impacts. Reliable power, transport and digital networks lower costs, raise efficiency and enable countries to draw on their respective strengths in energy, minerals, agriculture and industry. Integrated and resilient infrastructure provides the foundation for stronger trade links and for climate-positive growth shared across the continent.

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**37.5%**

Africa's  
population  
online



Africa's commercial ports: 238 of 4,700 worldwide



Source: Marine Vessel Traffic

## Trade: Boosting access and participation

Africa's participation in global trade remains limited. In 2022, Africa accounted for just 1.8 per cent of the global total, shrinking from 2.6 per cent in 2021 [11]. This marginalization in world commerce highlights structural issues: Africa primarily exports low-value commodities while importing higher-value goods. Primary commodities dominate Africa's trade profile. An estimated 45 per cent of Africa's exports are raw materials (e.g. unprocessed minerals, ores and agricultural products), and oil, gas and other commodities make up a large portion of the remainder [11]. Manufactured goods constitute about 20 per cent of Africa's exports to the rest of the world [11]. Consequently, Africa's presence in global manufacturing is minimal, accounting for 0.8 per cent of export value [11].

Boosting intra-African trade and regional integration is widely seen as the remedy to these challenges. Currently, intra-African commerce makes up 16 per cent of Africa's total trade, a far lower regional trade share than in other continents [12]. For example, intraregional trade accounts for approximately 60 per cent of Asia's trade and 70 per cent of Europe's. Limited intra-African trade leaves the continent over-reliant on a few external partners [12]. Although small, intra-African trade is more diversified and industrial compared to the global share – approximately 45 per cent of intra-African trade consists of manufactured goods, indicating that regional markets support African industry better than global markets do [13].

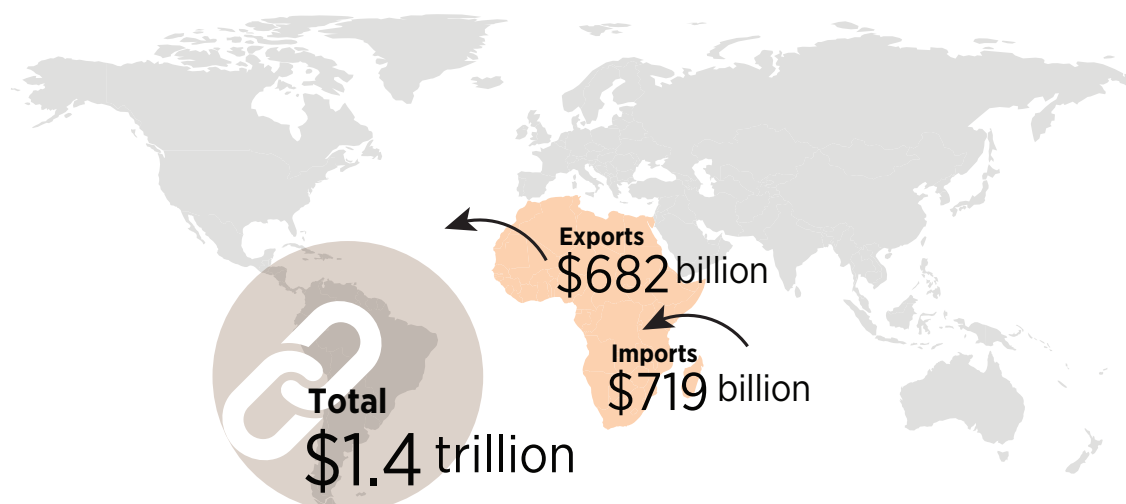
Strengthening continental ties, most notably through the African Continental Free Trade Area, is a core policy avenue to change this landscape. Deeper integration will increase trade volumes, and support a strategic shift to drive industrialization, enhance global competitiveness, reduce dependency on external powers, and enable Africa to shape its position in the global economy. Critically, expanding fair access to global markets for African value-added products will attract investment and accelerate the continent's industrial transformation.

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**1.8%**

Africa's  
share of  
global trade

### Africa buys more than it sells: 2024 trade



Source: African Export-Import Bank





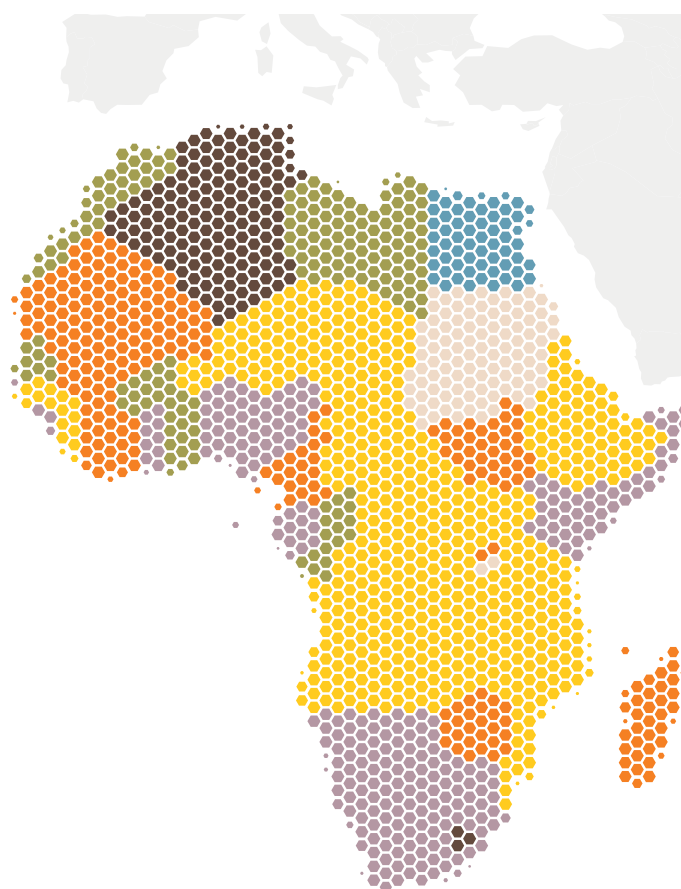
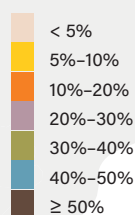
## Industry: Competitive transformation

The global economy is being redefined. Industrial policy and climate policy are converging across major economies, reshaping production systems around low-carbon technologies, digital integration and strategic supply chains. Artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning are accelerating this transformation, altering where value is created and which skills are in demand. Low-cost labour alone will no longer attract investment. Instead, value will flow to countries that can deliver resilient, clean supply chains, proximity to raw materials and affordable energy, and the agility to meet new green and digital standards.

Africa enters this transition from a fragile position. The continent accounts for just two per cent of global manufacturing value added, down from nearly three per cent in the 1970s [14]. Manufacturing contributes only 11 per cent of GDP compared to almost 18 per cent in the 1980s and provides 7.6 per cent of employment [14]. By contrast, manufacturing represents over 15 per cent of GDP in Latin America and more than 25 per cent in East Asia [14]. Industrial energy use tells the same story. African industries consume less than 20 per cent of final energy [15], underscoring limited scale and competitiveness. High input costs, fragmented infrastructure and elevated capital costs further constrain growth.

### Africa's workforce in industry

Share of employment coming from industry



Source: World Bank

Yet, Africa also has a singular opportunity to reposition itself. Its comparative advantage lies not in replicating the twentieth-century model but in building future-ready industrial ecosystems powered by abundant renewable energy, enabled by digital infrastructure and anchored in regional integration. Strategic minerals such as cobalt, lithium and rare earths – and green commodities from agriculture to hydrogen – gain true value when processed with clean energy. The gap between resources and results is large. Africa holds 60 per cent of global solar potential but only 1.3 per cent of installed solar PV [15], and over 40 per cent of global cobalt reserves but processes less than 5 per cent locally [16].

Closing this gap requires more than infrastructure. It also demands investment in education, technical training and research capacity, along with innovation ecosystems that adapt global technologies to African realities. Without these, energy and resource endowments will not translate into competitive industries. Success will position the continent as a competitive player in the green and digital era, where sovereignty, resilience and prosperity depend on industrial strength.

# 1.3%

Africa's share  
of global  
manufactured  
exports





## **Progress:** Energy and industrial transformation

Africa's transition to climate-positive growth requires systematic coordination of renewable energy deployment and industrial development. Several strategic initiatives that have rapidly advanced since ACS1 exemplify continental approaches to building integrated energy systems and value chains, positioning Africa as both author and beneficiary of the global green transformation.

The **Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative** (AGII), conceived at ACS1, establishes a continental framework for climate-positive growth and competitiveness. Endorsed by the AU and steered by annual meetings of African Heads of State, AGII operates through systematic coordination of industrial development priorities. Anchored within the AfCFTA, AGII catalyses strategic activities that combine Africa's renewable and resource endowments with its 1.5 billion – and growing – population, meeting the continent's development needs while positioning it to capture a greater share of global green growth. Implementation advances through champion country leadership, engagement with African financing entities, and structured partnerships with governments, philanthropies and multilateral institutions.

The **Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa** (AGIA), led by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Africa50, reached a significant milestone with the first close of its Project Development Fund (AGIA-PD) at \$118 million in August 2025, towards a planned \$500 million. With anchor commitments from AfDB, KfW (Germany), BOAD, the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the Soros Economic Development Fund and the African Climate Foundation, the blended-finance facility is structured to de-risk early-stage projects in renewable energy, sustainable transport and ICT.

These initiatives demonstrate how coordinated industrial policy and finance can leverage continental scale to build advantage in emerging green technologies, enabling Africa to move beyond its role as a raw material supplier to become a continent that meets its own needs and competes in global markets.

The **Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa** (APRA) is providing the renewable backbone needed to power Africa's green industrialization. Since the launch at ACS1, it has grown to ten champion countries – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe – working alongside partners such as Denmark, Germany and IRENA. With private sector engagement and investment mobilization at its core, APRA's first Investment Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, consolidated \$2.5 billion of projects, with a second soon to take place in Freetown, Sierra Leone. A significant milestone since ACS1 is the establishment of the Nairobi-based APRA Implementation Office under UNOPS, which brings implementation support closer to African governments and markets.

APRA's trajectory shows how African leadership, combined with international partnerships, can accelerate renewable deployment while strengthening the continent's delivery capacity.



**Mission 300**, launched in 2025 through the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration, establishes a framework for connecting 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030. Jointly led by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, the initiative operates through national energy compacts that integrate reforms, electrification targets and investment planning. Financing commitments total approximately \$90 billion, including \$40 billion from the World Bank, \$15 billion from the African Development Bank, and additional contributions from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Islamic Development Bank. Mission 300 combines grid expansion, off-grid solutions and innovative financing instruments to accelerate delivery across diverse national contexts.

By aligning African energy priorities with multilateral financing capacity, the initiative highlights both the pressure and the opportunity to mobilize the capital needed to achieve universal access by 2030.

The **Continental Power System Masterplan** (CMP), initiated under AUDA-NEPAD, provides Africa's strategic roadmap for integrating five regional power pools into a unified continental grid under the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM). The framework aims to create a harmonized, interconnected and competitive continental electricity market delivering secure, reliable, affordable and sustainable power. According to CMP projections, generation capacity is expected to expand from approximately 260 GW in 2023 to over 1,200 GW by 2040, requiring an investment of around \$1.3 trillion. The European Union recognizes CMP and AfSEM as priority initiatives under the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative and the Global Gateway, committing €150 billion for sustainable infrastructure development in Africa.

CMP anchors long-term strategic planning in continental market integration, creating the basis for competitive power markets, cross-border renewable trade, and universal access by 2030 – a springboard for Africa's green industrialization and integration.

Coordinated implementation: Systematic transformation

These initiatives embody the systematic implementation of the Nairobi Declaration's energy and industrial transformation agenda. Together, they show how continental coordination can leverage scale, attract international partnerships, and strengthen implementation capacity, while ensuring African leadership in setting strategic priorities. This coordinated approach positions Africa's energy transition as both a continental development imperative and a contribution to global renewable deployment, demonstrating how well-designed initiatives can advance African agency while supporting broader climate goals.

## Natural assets and sovereignty

At ACS1, leaders underscored Africa's natural endowments – fertile land, vast water systems, forests and oceans – as both a global public good and a foundation for the continent's development. Since Nairobi, efforts have intensified to expand protected areas, restore degraded land and forests, and strengthen commitments on sustainable agriculture and water management. Initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Association, and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development are supporting soil restoration, productivity gains and climate resilience. Yet land degradation, deforestation, water stress and unsustainable farming continue to undermine progress, while investment in sustainable management of forests and marine resources remains limited. This section reviews the current state of play and the actions needed to ensure that Africa's natural assets underpin sovereignty, livelihoods and climate action, building on commitments of the Nairobi Declaration.





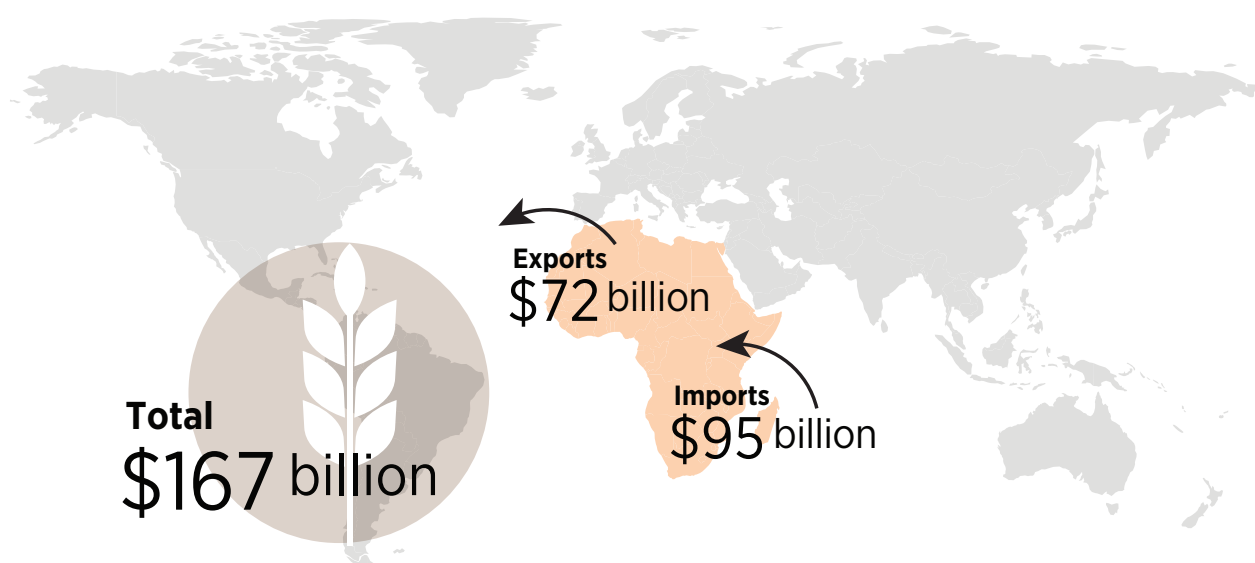
## Agriculture: Resolving the productivity paradox

Agriculture remains the backbone of African livelihoods and economies. Nearly two-thirds of employment is in the agro-food systems, rising to as much as 80 per cent in rural areas, according to FAO. Africa holds 1.1 billion hectares of agricultural land – more per capita than the global average – yet food imports exceed \$95 billion a year [17]. An estimated 163 million Africans faced acute food insecurity in 2024, nearly three times the number five years ago [18]. This paradox exposes a deep structural weakness, now worsened by the accelerating impacts of climate change.

The core challenge is productivity. Some five per cent of cropped land is irrigated, leaving most farms dependent on rainfall [19]. Fertilizer use is a fraction of the global average, and African yields are less than half the norm, leaving incomes low and households highly vulnerable to climate shocks. An estimated 20 to 40 percent of Africa's fish harvest is lost after catch because of limited cold storage and poor processing [20]. These weaknesses are reinforced by underinvestment. Agriculture receives on average less than four per cent of national budgets. This is reflected in the energy picture. Agriculture accounts for barely two per cent of Africa's total energy use, highlighting a lack of energy-intensive processing and modernization. By contrast, global agrifood systems consume nearly 30 per cent of energy [21].

The potential is extraordinary. Renewables can power irrigation, fertilizer production, cold chains and agro-processing at lower cost. Regional approaches are especially important. Africa spends \$15 billion annually on fertilizer imports [22], yet shared manufacturing and distribution systems could cut costs, strengthen food security and create jobs across borders.

### Agricultural trade flows in 2023



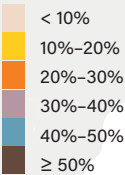
Source: WTO



In one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, resilient and competitive agriculture is central to Africa's stability and prosperity. By raising productivity and reducing losses, Africa can feed itself and emerge as a global anchor for food supply in a climate-constrained world. The Nairobi Declaration highlights climate-smart agriculture and nature-based solutions as tools to boost yields, cut emissions and build resilience, provided they are backed by strong policy and rooted in indigenous knowledge. Unlocking this potential means scaling local innovations, investing in agri-technology and skills, and extending the successful models already emerging across the continent.

Agriculture dominates Africa's employment landscape

Share of agriculture in total employment



Source: FAO

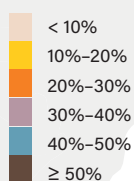
## Land use: Harnessing vast potential

The Nairobi Declaration placed land use at the centre of Africa's climate-positive growth agenda. More than half of the continent's land is degraded by desertification, soil erosion and nutrient loss, undermining productivity and livelihoods. Yet the opportunity is immense. Africa holds a dominant share of the world's remaining uncultivated fertile land – some 60 per cent, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates [23]. How the continent manages this vast arable land will not only determine its own development, it will also influence global carbon emissions and the planet's capacity to feed a growing population.

This land wealth carries profound geopolitical significance. Over 35 per cent of the world's large-scale land acquisition deals in the past two decades have taken place in Africa [24], driven largely by food-importing nations and agribusinesses seeking to secure farmland and water abroad. Such dynamics highlight Africa's central role in the future of food, water and climate security. By adopting strong land governance and standards, African governments can shape the terms of global markets and investment, ensuring that land and nature serve both domestic development and international climate goals. The Nairobi Declaration's focus on land and ecosystems is thus a statement of leadership, positioning Africa as a proactive actor in defining global solutions.

**Africa holds the largest share of the world's remaining uncultivated fertile land**

Share of arable land



Source: FAO

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**60%**

Africa's share of  
global usable  
uncultivated land

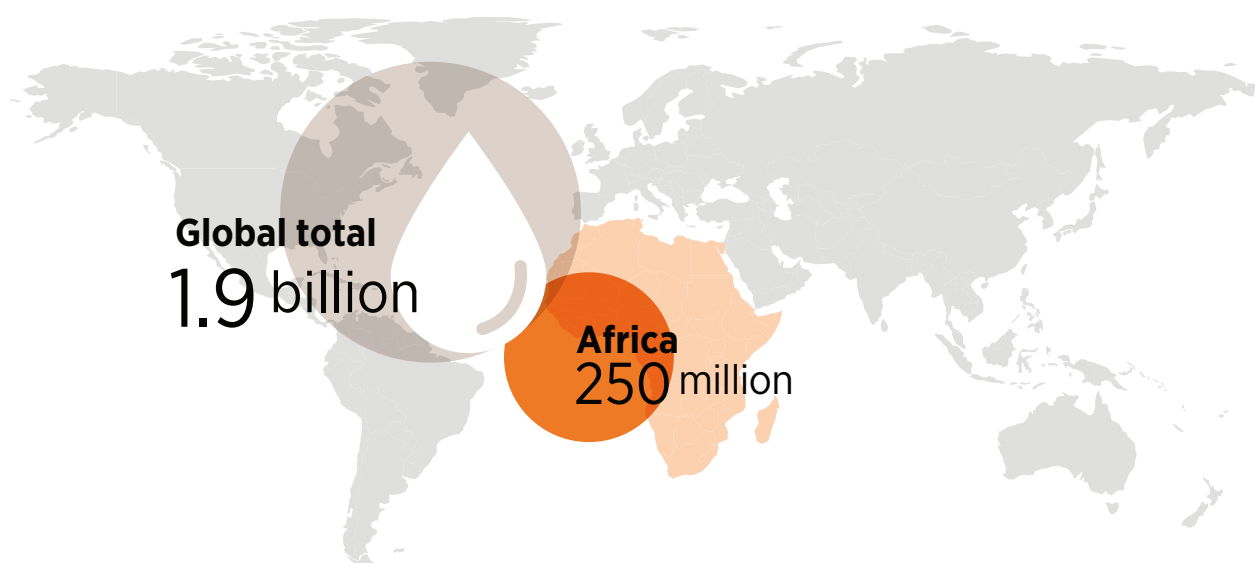


## Water: Bridging the gap between abundance and access

Africa is home to some of the world's most important freshwater systems, as well as vast underground aquifers. The Congo River alone accounts for one of the largest river discharges in the world, while Africa's Great Lakes represent nearly 29 per cent of the world's surface freshwater stored in lakes. Yet this abundance is highly uneven. Africa holds just under 9 per cent of global renewable freshwater resources, despite covering 22 per cent of the world's land area [25]. This uneven distribution is reflected in access. About 68 per cent of Africans have safe drinking water, leaving more than 400 million without basic services [26]. Roughly 250 million people already live in areas of high water stress [25], a figure projected to rise with climate change, rapid population growth and accelerating urbanization.

Elevating water security is central to tackling climate vulnerability. More frequent droughts, floods and rainfall extremes are already disrupting livelihoods and economies. The dramatic shrinkage of Lake Chad, which has lost over 90 per cent of its surface area since the 1960s, shows how climate change and competing demands can devastate entire ecosystems and destabilize communities. Hydropower, Africa's main source of renewable electricity, is increasingly vulnerable as climate change brings both prolonged droughts and damaging floods. Agriculture remains overwhelmingly rain-fed, leaving food systems exposed to shifting rainfall. Growing cities demand reliable supply, sanitation and flood protection. Healthy rivers, wetlands and aquifers are essential to biodiversity and climate resilience. And with more than 60 shared river basins, cooperative management is not only an ecological necessity but also a tool for peace and regional integration. African countries already recognize this, with nearly all identifying water security as a national climate priority – calling it the “climate connector” linking energy, food, health and ecosystems [27].

### Population in water stress regions





Unlike sectors such as energy, where pathways for investment and returns exist, business models for water resilience remain underdeveloped. Financing safe supply, climate-smart irrigation, or resilient urban systems rarely attracts private capital, leaving a heavy reliance on public and concessional funds. Closing this gap will require partnerships that go beyond traditional infrastructure projects – including municipalities working with communities and utilities, concessional finance blended with local innovation, and regional frameworks that strengthen trust and governance across borders.

Water is a test case for innovation in climate adaptation and an area where Africa's leadership and stewardship must be matched by sustained international support. The goal is to pioneer integrated, scalable approaches that secure drinking water, enable sustainable food production, protect ecosystems and build resilient cities. By mobilizing partnerships, Africa can begin to close its water access gap while building climate-smart systems that serve people, economies and ecosystems.

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**68%**

**Population  
with access to  
safe water**



## **Nature (oceans, forest):** From risk to strategic asset

The Nairobi Declaration calls for scaled investment in Africa's substantial natural capital – specifically forests and oceans – through nature-based solutions, with focus on adaptation and resilience, including valuation of natural capital in economic metrics, and formal recognition of nature's value in national accounting. Making the protection and restoration of nature financially viable remains a global gap.

Africa's forests and oceans illustrate both the scale of risk and opportunity. Forests still cover about 21 per cent of the continent, providing irreplaceable ecosystem services and carbon storage [28]. But between 2010 and 2020, Africa experienced the world's fastest deforestation rate, losing nearly 3.9 million hectares annually [29]. Marine and coastal ecosystems face a similar protection deficit, with less than 16 per cent of Africa's marine areas safeguarded [30] – well below the global target of 30 per cent by 2030. Mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds and fisheries remain underprotected and increasingly overexploited, weakening resilience and livelihoods, with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing alone costing the continent an estimated \$10–13 billion each year [31].



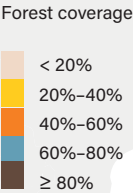
With the right policies and adequate financing, Africa can turn its natural wealth from a fragile constraint into a strategic asset. Restoring degraded landscapes, scaling climate-resilient agriculture, and protecting biodiversity require capital, but such investment also unlocks many opportunities, including food security, jobs, carbon markets and enhanced influence in shaping global climate, biodiversity and trade regimes. Realizing this vision will require navigating complex domestic trade-offs while securing international finance and technology flows.

The land and nature agenda set out in the Nairobi Declaration is therefore about continental repositioning and global leadership. By investing in sustainable land management and robust conservation, Africa positions itself as a steward of critical global public goods, from carbon sequestration, biodiversity, to ecosystem resilience. This stewardship, however, must be matched by fair partnerships, sustained finance and mechanisms to justly monetize Africa's natural assets within global markets.

16%

Share of  
marine areas  
protected in  
Africa

Forests cover about 21% of the continent



## Progress: Natural assets and sovereignty

Africa's natural heritage is under intensifying climate pressure, making resilience and adaptation central to both sovereignty and sustainable growth. The Nairobi Declaration called for responses that safeguard food security, protect vulnerable communities and link adaptation with green industrialization. Continental initiatives in agriculture, fertilizers, climate services and resilience show how Africa is building its capacity to adapt on its own terms while contributing to global climate stability.

The **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme** (CAADP) is the long-standing continental framework for boosting agricultural productivity, food security and resilience. It commits countries to allocate ten per cent of national budgets to agriculture and pursue six per cent annual growth in the sector. As of 2023, 51 AU member states have signed CAADP compacts, and 46 have developed national agriculture investment plans.

CAADP links directly to the Nairobi Declaration, which underscores Africa's need for climate-positive growth and modern green industrialization. Agriculture sits at the intersection of both: it is Africa's largest employer, a key user of energy and water, and highly vulnerable to climate impacts. The framework therefore provides an entry point for integrating climate resilience, renewable energy use in agri-value chains, fertilizer and food systems innovation – and intra-African trade under the AfCFTA. These links make CAADP central to advancing the Nairobi Declaration's agenda while aligning agricultural transformation with energy, industry and climate priorities.

The **Pan-African Fertilizer Industry Association** was launched at the Africa Food Summit in Dakar in 2025. This new body will bring together national fertilizer associations to implement the 10-Year Action Plan on Fertilizer and Soil Health, aimed at reducing the continent's heavy reliance on food imports, by strengthening fertilizer access and use. The association coordinates industry and government efforts, to ensure farmers have access to affordable and effective fertilizer and improve soil health across the continent. By supporting the Nairobi Declaration's vision of climate-positive growth, the association also links agriculture to Africa's green industrialization agenda helping to build competitive value chains in fertilizer production and processing and strengthening Africa's role in global food and green markets.

The **African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development** (ACMAD) established in 1987 as Africa's continental centre for weather and climate services, supports 53 member states with forecasting, early warning and climate information to guide decision-making in agriculture, water, health, energy and disaster management. Recent progress has included the operationalization of the African Multi-Hazard Advisory Centre in Niamey, strengthening continental early warning capacities under the UN's Early Warnings for All initiative. ACMAD has also expanded support for climate monitoring networks and impact-based forecasting, working



with AU bodies and regional centres to improve preparedness for droughts, floods and other extremes. These advances respond directly to the Nairobi Declaration's call to prioritize adaptation and resilience, while also highlighting the urgent need to expand Africa's own scientific and data capabilities to inform decision-making and long-term planning.

The **Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor** (BCRUP) initiative was first announced under the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit and embedded in the Nairobi Declaration. It focuses on strengthening climate resilience in Africa's rapidly expanding informal urban settlements. Co-led by Kenya and Brazil, the initiative encompasses a ten-year strategy adopted at COP28 in 2023. A pilot phase is now underway across 12 African countries, supported by governance and readiness processes facilitated through UCLG Africa. Mobilization of resources is also underway, targeting \$6 billion, positioning BCRUP as a framework to channel finance and partnerships toward one of Africa's most pressing adaptation challenges.





## Systems of transition

Africa's transition to climate-positive growth will be determined not only by progress in individual sectors but by the systems that underpin them. Urbanization is reshaping how people live and work, finance remains the foundation of climate-positive growth and inclusion, and carbon markets offer a potential new income stream. The Nairobi Declaration and ACS1 recognized the need to reform these systemic enablers to secure Africa's long-term resilience and prosperity. Since then, progress has been made, including the advancement of the Nairobi Declaration's concrete proposals at the Finance for Development Summit in June 2025. Innovations such as the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force (GSLTF) have advanced proposals for revenue sources, the Africa Carbon Market Initiative (ACMI) has expanded its activities, and an Independent Expert Review on Debt, Nature and Climate has informed reform debates with its recommendations. Despite progress, Africa continues to face high debt burdens, limited fiscal space, rapid urbanization without adequate infrastructure, and underrepresentation in global decision-making. This section reviews the state of play and the actions needed to ensure that systemic reforms across carbon markets, urbanization and finance enable the climate-positive growth agenda set out at ACS1.

## Carbon markets: From potential to revenue

Carbon markets and carbon finance have become central to Africa's climate strategy, especially since the first Africa Climate Summit in 2023. They are seen as a bridge between the continent's vast mitigation potential, its urgent ambition to grow sustainably, and the global search for low-cost emission reductions and removals. Africa's presence in carbon markets remains limited, both in project numbers and in market value, because its credits are concentrated in lower-priced sectors

Around half of all African projects today are focused on cookstoves and household energy, with 45 per cent in forestry and land use, and agriculture accounting for only 5 per cent – according to the United Nations University (UNU). Most of these projects are concentrated in a handful of countries. This sectoral and geographical concentration highlights the need for scale-up and diversification.

Meanwhile, the global landscape is evolving rapidly. Voluntary markets remain small – about \$2 billion in 2022 – compared to compliance markets trading in the hundreds of billions: the global carbon markets value hit \$949 billion in 2023 [32]. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change is progressing, with more than 100 bilateral agreements now in place and the first credit transfers beginning to flow. New compliance mechanisms, including those for international aviation and the European Union's carbon removals framework, are also taking shape and will influence where demand grows. This demand is gradually shifting toward removals, where Africa has fewer ready-to-scale options.

### Global compliance carbon markets size in 2023

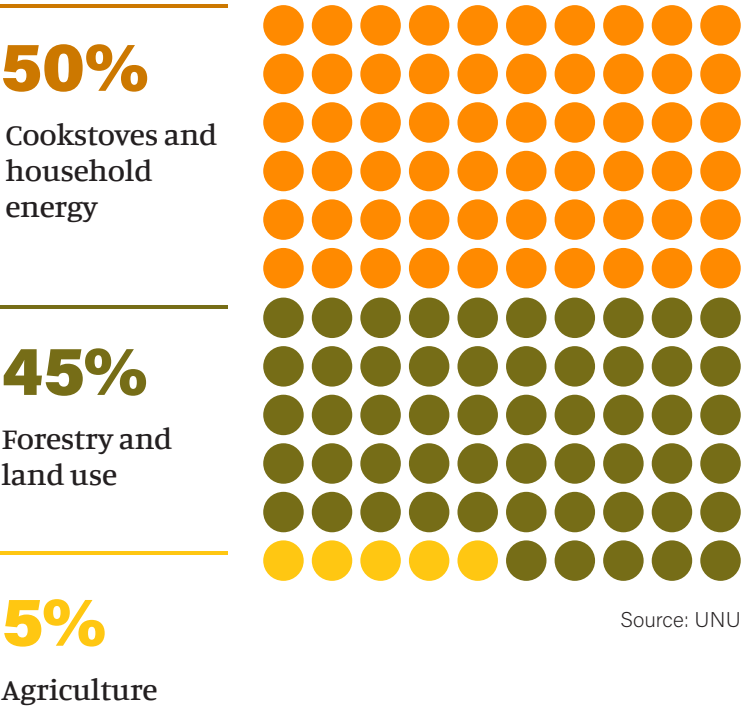


Source: Reuters



For Africa, the priority is to move early. By building robust national frameworks, ensuring integrity, and diversifying its supply of credits, the continent can strengthen its position in emerging carbon markets. Africa must also track demand-side policy shifts to ensure its strategies align with the evolving needs of buyers. On the global level, buyers and standard setters should incorporate African voices, reflect local realities, value co-benefits, and offer fair prices with long-term investment certainty to unlock Africa's full mitigation potential. Properly designed, carbon markets, when linked to green growth, debt sustainability, and livelihoods, can serve as a channel through which global decarbonization translates into tangible investment and opportunity across the continent.

Sectoral concentration in African carbon markets



Source: UNU



## Urbanization: Resilient cities, prosperous communities

**54%**

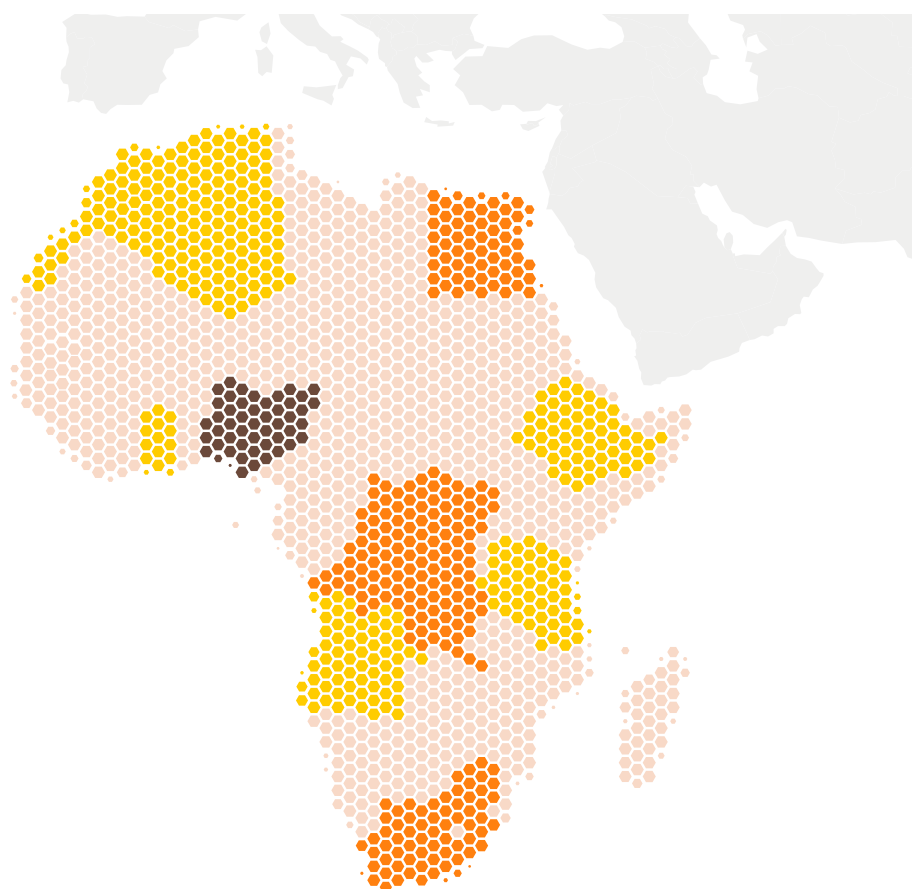
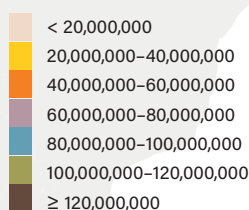
Urban  
population

Africa's cities are growing faster than anywhere else in the world. By 2050, the continent's urban population will double from around 700 million to 1.4 billion, making Africa home to the second-largest urban population globally after Asia. Already, 54 per cent of Africans live in cities, with 90 over one million residents [33]. Because most of Africa's 2050 urban infrastructure has not yet been built, today's choices in planning and investment will determine whether African cities become engines of climate-smart growth or centres of vulnerability.

Densely populated cities can drive economic transformation, innovation and resource efficiency. But poorly planned growth magnifies risk. Africa has the highest proportion of urban residents living in slums, estimated at over 53 per cent [34]. Only 31 per cent of the population has access to sanitation [35], leaving millions vulnerable to health risks. Nearly half of Africa's final energy consumption is residential, locking in demand that will shape energy and emissions trajectories for decades to come.

Africa's urban population

Urban population numbers



Source: UN Habitat



The Nairobi Declaration recognizes inclusive and climate-resilient urbanization as a pillar of Africa's green growth pathway. This means prioritizing sustainable city planning, resilient infrastructure, green buildings and direct climate finance for local authorities. Yet financing and capacity gaps remain significant. Most municipalities lack fiscal autonomy, face legal barriers to borrowing, and depend heavily on national transfers. Many lack the technical skills to design and deliver climate-ready projects. Informal settlements add further complexity, as upgrading drainage, sanitation and housing demands both major resources and inclusive engagement with communities.

The way cities are built will shape everything from access to jobs and services, health and safety, to women's participation in the labour market, the cost of living and doing business, and the sustainability of surrounding ecosystems. With supportive governance, innovation and climate-aligned investment, Africa's cities can become global examples of low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Realizing this vision will require new forms of partnership among national and city governments, international financiers, and local communities, to unlock investment at scale while ensuring inclusion and accountability.

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**31%**

**Population  
with access to  
sanitation**



## **Finance and investment flows:** Bridging the climate ambition gap

Africa's fiscal space is tight – 21 countries are in or at high risk of debt distress [36]. Public and publicly guaranteed external debt exceeded \$680 billion in 2023, with almost \$90 billion due in debt service in 2025. At the same time, climate finance flows to Sub-Saharan Africa averaged \$43.7 billion a year in 2021/22, barely 23 per cent of the \$190 billion needed annually by 2030 [37] [38]. Most flows are directed towards energy systems and cross-sectoral activities, with adaptation still being heavily underfunded. Finance is skewed toward loans, accounting for over half of climate flows, often at market rates. Private finance is limited, covering less than one-fifth of flows, and access for cities, utilities and small businesses remains constrained. The result is a mismatch of rising climate ambition with insufficient, costly and poorly targeted finance.

The Nairobi Declaration sets clear asks including reforming the global financial architecture, expanding concessional finance, delivering faster debt relief, re-channeling unused Special Drawing Rights, and exploring new international levies on shipping, aviation and fossil fuels. It also calls for a Global Climate Finance Charter to embed fairness, predictability and transparency in how climate funds are raised and allocated.

For African governments, the imperative is to protect fiscal space, reduce reliance on expensive debt, create environments that can absorb scaled-up concessional and blended finance, and attract private investment. It means aligning climate finance with national development priorities, ensuring that new flows do not worsen debt stress, and unlocking access for local governments, utilities and enterprises. It also means deepening domestic capital markets and project pipelines, and strategic levers such as the creation of an African Credit Rating Agency.

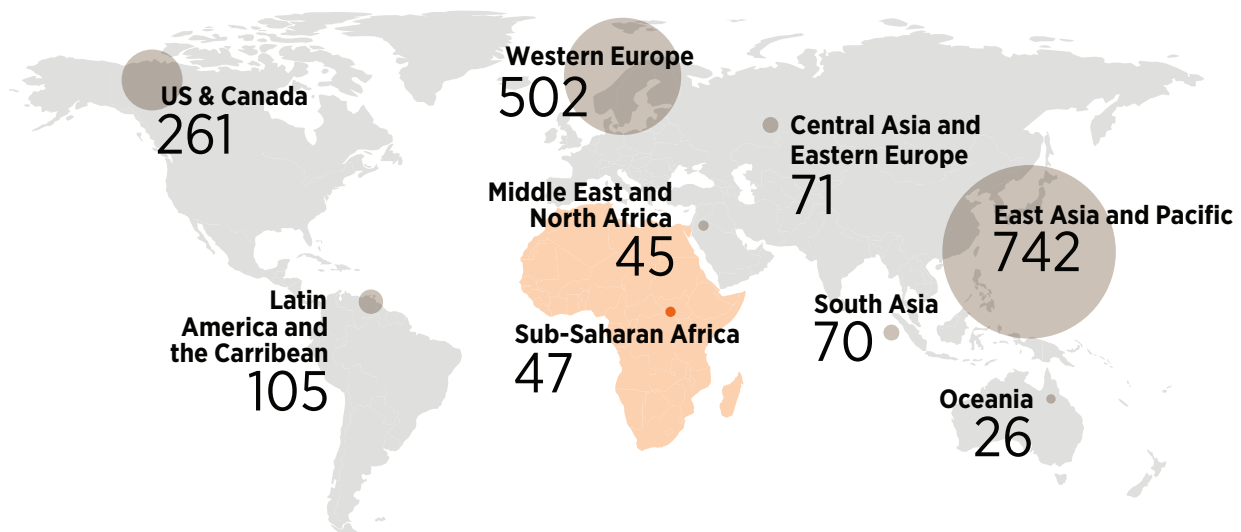




For international partners, the challenge is to step up with predictable, affordable and fair financing. This requires restructuring debt where needed, shifting toward grants and concessional loans for adaptation, and investing in early-stage and risk-sharing capital to attract private investment. It also means recognizing Africa's provision of global public goods – from carbon sequestration to renewable energy leadership – and matching that stewardship with scaled, long-term support.

The Nairobi Declaration makes clear that climate-positive growth cannot be achieved by Africa alone. It requires a rebalanced partnership between African institutions and global financiers. Progress has been made – African leaders have unified their position on reforming the global financial architecture, advanced debt transparency initiatives, and launched efforts to operationalize new instruments such as pooled platforms for project preparation. The continent is taking steps to strengthen its own financial systems, but these efforts will only succeed if matched by faster reforms of a global financial architecture that has outlived its purpose. The new system must align debt sustainability, concessional flows and private capital mobilization with Africa's green industrialization agenda, while also delivering targeted and responsive support to address the damage climate change is already causing.

**Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for about 2.5% of global climate finance (\$ billion)**



Source: CPI

## Progress: Systems of transition

The Nairobi Declaration's call for systemic reform in global finance is being realized through targeted initiatives that position Africa as a co-author of emerging climate finance mechanisms. Three strategic interventions – sovereign debt restructuring, solidarity levy implementation and carbon market development – illustrate how African leadership is reshaping global financial architecture while addressing structural barriers to climate-positive growth.

The **Independent Expert Review on Debt, Nature and Climate**, launched in 2023 by Colombia, Kenya, France and Germany, responds to the challenge of debt burdens that constrain climate action. It broke with tradition by bringing borrowers and lenders together as co-designers of solutions, moving beyond the usual debtor-creditor divide. The expert panel's 2025 Final Report presents 12 policy recommendations across five strategic areas: mainstreaming nature and climate into economic analysis, reducing debt pressures, scaling proven instruments, unlocking private capital, and building country capacity for sustainable investment management.

The framework addresses the "triple crisis" of escalating debt burdens, climate change and nature loss, providing pathways for countries to invest in climate resilience rather than cutting climate action to service debt obligations.

The **Global Solidarity Levies Task Force**, co-chaired by Barbados, France and Kenya since 2023, addresses climate finance insufficiency by identifying new revenue sources that align pricing mechanisms with climate damage. The task force explores 16 levy options across sectors, including fossil fuel extraction, aviation, shipping and financial transactions. Partnership support continues to expand, with 14 countries and over 10 multilateral institutions backing the initiative, including the IMF, World Bank, UN bodies, G20, EU and AU. In June 2025, eight member countries announced implementation of a levy on premium airline travel – business class, first class and private jets – representing the first concrete implementation of progressive international climate levies.

The **Africa Carbon Markets Initiative** (ACMI), launched at COP27 in 2022, transformed Africa's approach from fragmented participation to coordinated market influence. Rather than accepting existing market structures, ACMI created continental consensus around Africa's carbon market priorities and accelerated regional coordination mechanisms. ACMI built on the successes of three existing regional alliances: West Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa, supported by the AU and UNECA. These alliances serve dual functions: facilitating knowledge sharing and shaping market rules to expand Africa's share of global carbon markets. UNECA supports regional standardization through the Congo Basin Climate Commission, while AUDA-NEPAD contributes through methodology innovation, ensuring African carbon projects reflect continental realities rather than adapted external frameworks.

Since ACS1, the African Union Commission has advanced a continental framework through the African Aspiration and Action Plan on Carbon Markets (AAAPCM), with AUDA-NEPAD developing the supporting technical instruments. Together, these efforts will set a new benchmark for market participation, anchored in social value, and enhance the recognition of Africa's credits in the global marketplace.

**Systemic impact: Reshaping global architecture**

The three initiatives illustrate how strategic interventions in global systems can advance continental priorities while contributing to global climate solutions. Together, they represent coordinated action across the three primary constraints on climate finance: cost of capital, debt burden and revenue insufficiency. This approach – building agency within global systems rather than operating outside them – represents the practical implementation of the Nairobi Declaration's vision for Africa's role in the twenty-first century economy.

## SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO CLIMATE-POSITIVE GROWTH

# External and internal constraints





Africa's ambition to pursue climate-positive growth is constrained by a set of structural barriers that operate both externally and internally. These barriers are systemic, shaping the costs of finance, the terms of trade, the flow of technology, and the continent's voice in global governance.

### **High cost of capital and debt burdens**

African projects face the highest financing costs in the world. Risk premiums inflate the price of renewable energy and infrastructure investment, undermining competitiveness even where the technology itself is cost-effective. At the same time, debt service consumes scarce fiscal space, leaving governments with little room to invest in public goods or crowd in private capital.

### **Trade and market distortions**

Global trade rules and subsidy regimes continue to disadvantage African producers. Agricultural subsidies in advanced economies depress prices for African farmers, while barriers to value-added exports keep the continent tied to raw commodities. New areas such as carbon markets are also shaped by frameworks largely designed without African input, limiting Africa's share of emerging value chains.

### **Technology and knowledge gaps**

Access to critical technologies, intellectual property, and the knowledge networks that drive competitiveness remains uneven. Without fairer access, Africa risks being a consumer rather than a producer of the green technologies that will define the twenty-first century economy.

### **Limited role in global governance**

Africa's structural disadvantage is reinforced by under-representation in the institutions that set global rules, from multilateral finance to trade to climate governance. Decisions that affect the continent's prospects are often made without African agency, reinforcing dependency and limiting strategic influence.

### **Domestic governance and implementation**

Structural barriers are not only external. Within Africa, fragmented markets, inconsistent policy frameworks, and weak implementation capacity slow delivery. Strengthening domestic governance and continental coordination is essential to match external reforms with credible action at home.

## **DELIVERING A CLIMATE-POSITIVE FUTURE**

# **Shared responsibility, mutual action**

The Nairobi Declaration sets out Africa's determination to chart its own course in the twenty-first century economy. It frames climate-positive growth as the foundation for prosperity at home and a contribution to global solutions. Realizing this vision requires action on two fronts – Africa exercising its own agency with coherence and urgency, and the international system addressing the structural barriers that continue to hold the continent back.

The strategic asks of this report, noted in the following table, capture that dual responsibility. They highlight the reforms Africa should pursue at national, regional and continental levels, including strengthening fiscal discipline, accelerating trade integration, investing in knowledge and improving governance. They underline that Africa is building its own instruments of agency – from the African Continental Free Trade Area to the African Credit Rating Agency – and that these must be recognized and supported.

At the same time, international partners have a responsibility to create the conditions for Africa's climate-positive growth. This includes lowering the cost of capital through reforms of global financial institutions, expanding concessional flows, and mobilizing private investment at scale. It calls for overhauling debt, trade and subsidy regimes and opening global markets to Africa's value-added goods.

Taken together, these are not a menu of options but a political compact. The vision is for Africa to advance this agenda as a driver in its own right, with international partners reinforcing that role by recognizing and institutionalizing its voice in global governance. Success will depend on both sides – Africa delivering at home, and the global system opening space for action in Africa where business, climate and development gains align.



**Africa's agency and global reforms advancing together**

Theme	African leadership	Global partnership
<b>Finance for climate-positive growth</b>	Deepen domestic capital markets and pipelines; accelerate the African Credit Rating Agency; strengthen debt transparency and management.	Reform multilateral development banks' mandates and instruments to align with climate action and green industrialization; create fiscal space through grants, concessional finance, and other non-debt instruments; build climate risks into debt through resilience clauses, pauses and swap; expand risk-sharing to mobilize private capital; strengthen credit-rating entities' presence on the continent.
<b>Productive transformation</b>	Drive structural change by scaling renewable generation and integration across sectors; link clean energy directly to value chains and industrial corridors; adopt clear and predictable policies so the private sector can invest with confidence.	Support large-scale renewable and infrastructure projects; invest in green industrial hubs; ensure private investment in Africa competes on fair terms; align global trade and climate policies with Africa's industrialization efforts.
<b>Trade and markets</b>	Accelerate AfCFTA implementation; coordinate African Union positions on trade rules and carbon markets; invest in regional supply chains.	Reform subsidies and tariff regimes that disadvantage African markets; open global markets for African value-added goods; include Africa in setting standards for green products and carbon trading.
<b>Technology and knowledge</b>	Invest in education, skilling and reskilling, research and development, and African centres of excellence; strengthen innovation ecosystems.	Enable fair technology and intellectual property access; finance joint research and development with African institutions; resource African-led innovation hubs as global partners.
<b>Governance and agency</b>	Deliver policy consistency and credible implementation; empower the African Union, African Continental Free Trade Area, and AUDA-NEPAD to drive collective African positions and actions.	Reform multilateral development bank boards, International Monetary Fund quotas, and climate funds to give Africa fair voting power; strengthen Africa's role in formal institutions and in initiatives and clubs shaping climate and trade rules; back African-led institutions as global partners.

## Appendix I

### Tracking progress: the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action

Dimension	Reference point	Africa	Comparator	Source
<b>Energy</b>	Total installed renewable energy capacity (GW)	67 GW	4,448 GW (global total)	IRENA, 2025 [1]
<b>Energy</b>	Proportion of population with access to electricity (%)	61%	92% (global total)	IEA et al., 2025 [2]
<b>Energy</b>	Number of people without access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking	1 billion	2.1 billion (global total)	IEA et al., 2025 [2]
<b>Energy</b>	Average annual energy consumption per person (kWh/capita)	4,052 kWh	21,654 kWh (global average)	Our world in data, 2025 [3]
<b>Energy/ Investment</b>	Investment in energy, all sources	7% of global total	\$3.3 trillion (global total)	IEA, 2025 [5]
<b>Energy/ Investment</b>	Investment in clean energy	2% of global total	\$2.2 trillion (global total)	IEA, 2025 [5]
<b>Energy/ Consumption</b>	Share of total energy consumption used by industrial sectors (%)	19% of Africa total	2.6% of global total	IEA, 2024 [39]
<b>Energy/ Consumption</b>	Share of total energy consumption used in agricultural production (%)	1.7% of Africa total	3.7% of global total	IEA, 2024 [39]
<b>Energy/ Consumption</b>	Share of total final energy consumption used by residential sector (%)	46.7% of Africa total	12.6% of global total	IEA, 2024 [39]
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Proportion of roads that are paved (%)	43%	NA	CGD, 2023 [8]
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Total length of operational railway (km)	59,506 km (7% of global)	915,473 km (global total)	International Union of Railways, 2024 [9]
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Number of commercial ports	238	4,700 (global total)	Marine Vessel Traffic, 2025 [40]
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Proportion of population using the internet (%)	37.5%	67.6% (global total)	ITU, 2024 [10]



Dimension	Reference point	Africa	Comparator	Source
<b>Industry</b>	Proportion of employment in manufacturing (%)	7.6%	14.1% (global)	UNIDO, 2024 [14] Trading Economics, 2025 [41]
<b>Industry</b>	Manufacturing value added per capita (\$)	\$206	\$1,912 (global)	UNIDO, 2024 [14]
<b>Trade</b>	Value of African trade (\$) (exports and imports)	\$1.4 trillion (total) Exports \$682 billion Imports \$719 billion	1.8% of global total	De Melo et al., 2025 [11] Afreximbank, 2024 [13]
<b>Trade</b>	Share of manufactured goods in total African export value (%)	34%	1.3% of global total	De Melo et al., 2025 [11] UNIDO, 2024 [14]
<b>Trade</b>	Share of unprocessed raw materials in total African export value (%)	45%	\$682 billion (Africa export total)	Afreximbank, 2024 [13]
<b>Trade</b>	Intra-continental as a share of total trade (%)	16%	\$1.4 trillion (Africa total)	UNCTAD, 2024 [12]
<b>Trade/ Strategic minerals</b>	Africa's share of global mined production and reserves (selected energy minerals, %)	Cobalt: 70% Copper: 17% Lithium: 11% Graphite: 6.5% Rare earths: 0.7%	NA	IEA, 2025 [42]
<b>Agriculture</b>	Proportion of people working in agriculture (including forestry and fisheries), as a share of people employed (%)	48%	26.2% globally	FAO, 2024 [43]
<b>Agriculture</b>	Total value of agricultural trade (\$, exports and imports)	\$167 billion (total) Exports \$72 billion Imports \$95 billion	\$1.4 trillion (Africa trade total)	WTO, 2025 [17]
<b>Agriculture</b>	Proportion of cultivated agricultural land equipped with irrigation systems (%)	5%	13%	World Bank, 2021 [19]
<b>Agriculture</b>	Proportion of global uncultivated arable land located in Africa (%)	60%	NA	FAO, 2022 [23]

Dimension	Reference point	Africa	Comparator	Source
<b>Water</b>	Proportion of population with access to safe drinking water (%)	68%	74% globally	UNICEF, WHO, 2024 [44]
<b>Water</b>	Number of people living in regions with water scarcity	250 million	1.9 billion (global total)	WMO, 2022 [25]
<b>Oceans</b>	Proportion of marine and coastal areas under formal protection status (%)	15.96%	30% (global target 2030)	Protected Planet, 2025 [30]
<b>Forest</b>	Forest area as % of total land (hectares)	21% (637 million)	31% global (4,059 million)	The Research Agency of the Forestry Commission, 2024 [28]
<b>Forest</b>	Net change in forest area per year (hectares)	-3.9 million	NA	FAO, 2020 [29]
<b>Urbanization</b>	Proportion of total population living in urban areas (%)	54%	56% (global)	OECD et al., 2025 [33] UNSD, 2024 [34]
<b>Urbanization</b>	Proportion of urban residents living in slums (%)	53.6%	24% (global)	UNSD, 2024 [34]
<b>Urbanization</b>	Proportion of population with access to sanitation (%)	31%	57% (global)	UNICEF, 2022 [35]
<b>Finance and investment</b>	Number of governments at high risk of or in debt distress	21	59 (global)	AU, 2025 [36] World Bank, 2024 [45]
<b>Finance and investment</b>	External debt service, 2025 (\$)	\$88.7 billion		One Data, 2025 [37]
<b>Finance and investment</b>	2023 climate finance flows to Sub-Saharan African countries (\$)	\$47 billion	\$1.9 trillion (global)	CPI, 2025 [38]
<b>Finance and investment</b>	Annual foreign direct investment, 2024 (\$)	\$97 billion	6% of global	UNCTAD, 2025 [46]
<b>Finance and investment</b>	Share of investment by Africa's businesses and entrepreneurs (%)	70%	NA	African Business, 2024 [47]

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