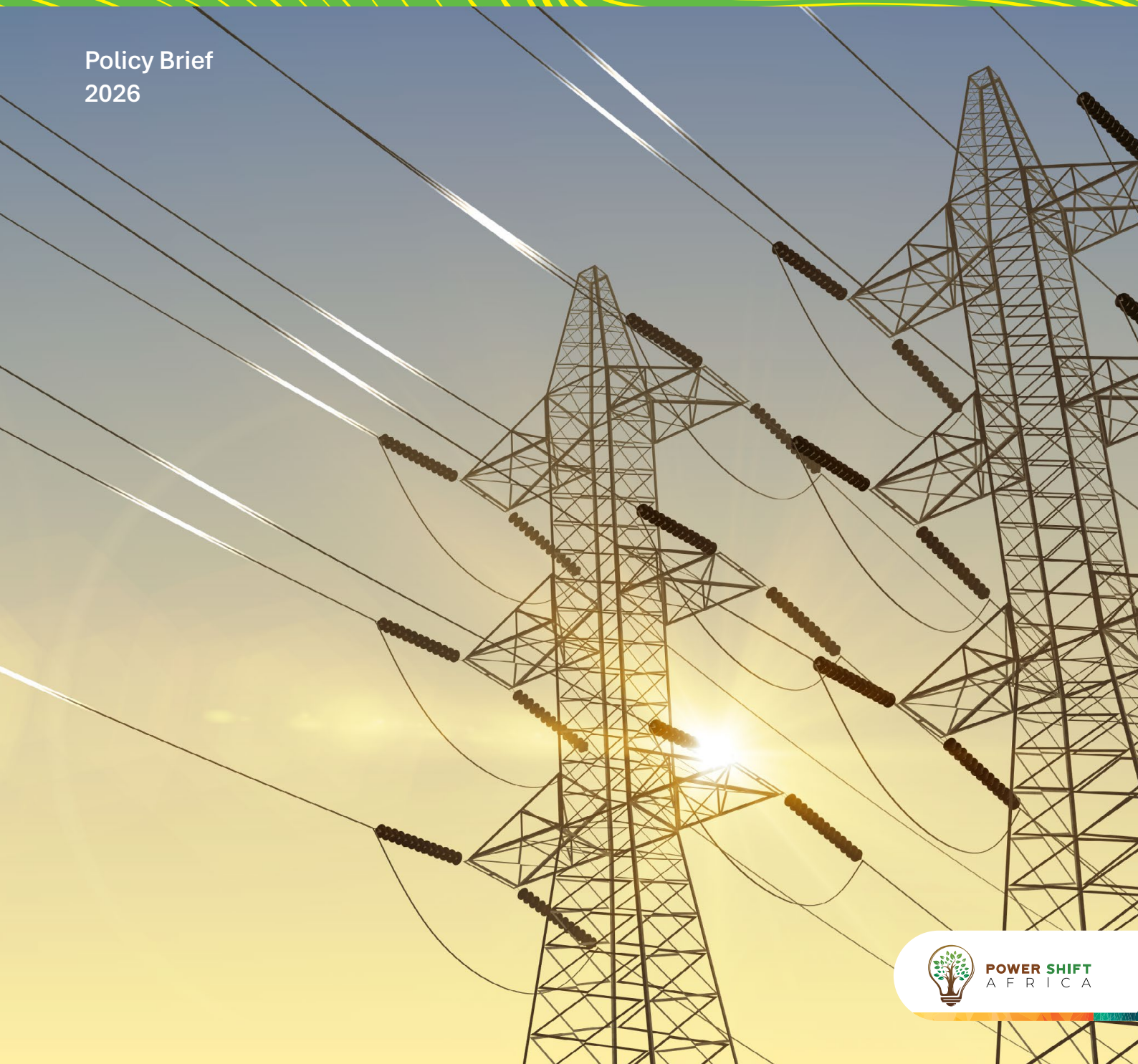
Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA)

Strategic pathways for a renewables-led energy transition and green industrialisation

Policy Brief
2026



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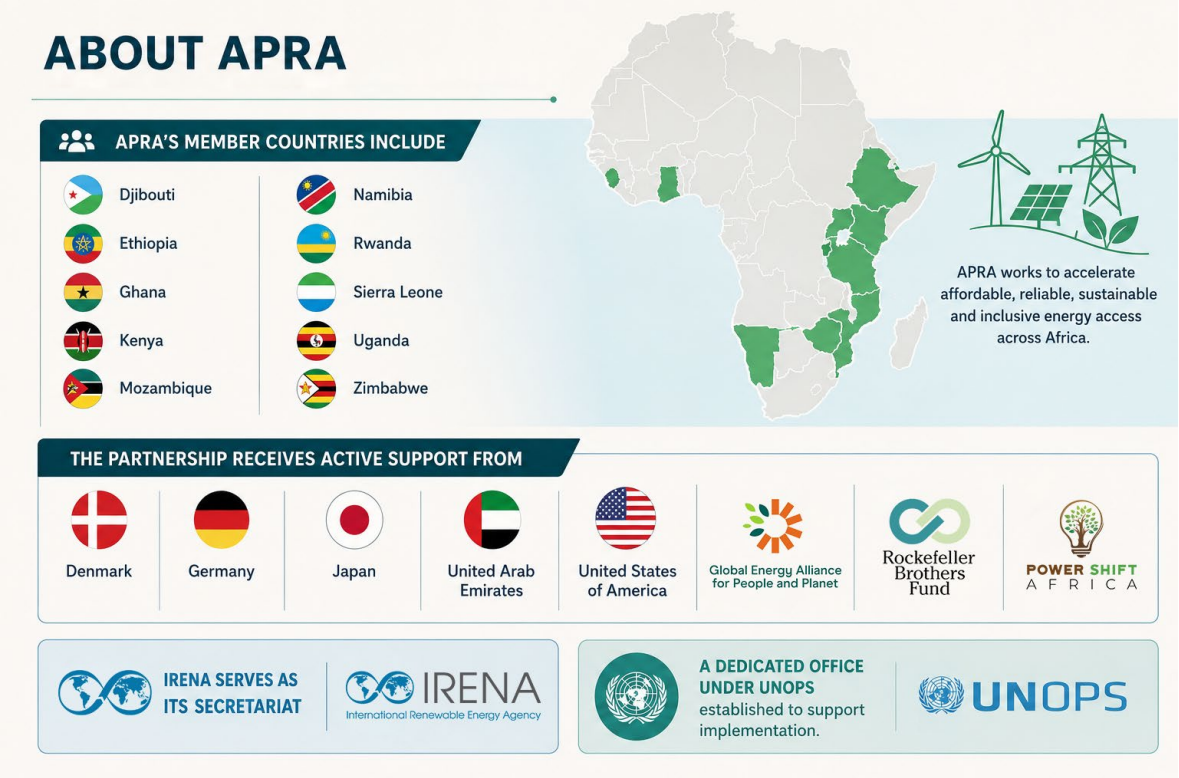
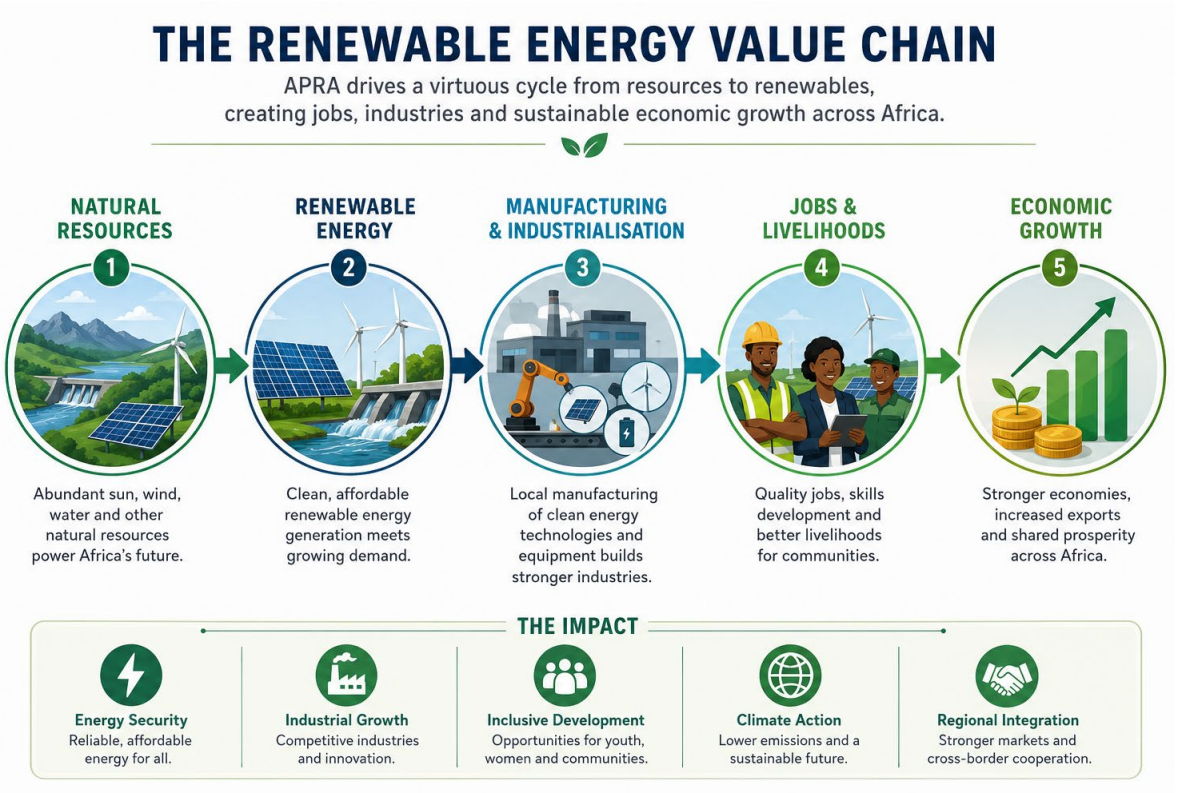
Executive summary

The Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) is an Africa-led international initiative launched at the 2023 African Climate Summit to fast-track renewable energy deployment, strengthen green industrialisation, and improve access to affordable, reliable electricity. Consisting of 10 African countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe, with support from Denmark, Germany, Japan, the United States, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Power Shift Africa, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), APRA combines political leadership, project facilitation, and investment mobilisation to drive a continent-wide clean energy transition. Its ambition is shaped by Africa's rising energy demand, climate vulnerabilities, and significant untapped renewable potential. Key targets include reaching 37GW of renewables by 2030, tripling deployment rates, doubling energy-efficiency improvements, and modernising grids for variable generation. Achieving these goals requires harmonised planning, standardised policy frameworks, and coordinated investment, particularly in transmission infrastructure.
The platform fosters collaboration between governments, development finance institutions, private investors, and international organisations to mobilise capital and develop bankable project pipelines. Recent investment forums and partner initiatives demonstrate growing interest in blended finance mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and downstream industrial opportunities. APRA aligns with broader continental integration efforts, strengthening synergies with the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM), regional power pools, and the



African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). These frameworks enable cross-border power trading, regulatory harmonisation, and the development of continent-wide supply chains. Supportive policy, regulatory, and institutional environments are critical to delivery, including policies that embed just transition principles through meaningful and inclusive community participation throughout the project lifecycle; equitable and structured benefit-sharing; transparency, access to information and accountable governance; and local economic development and livelihood protection. Clear incentives, transparent procurement, efficient permitting, and capable regulatory agencies will help reduce risk and attract private investment. The African Union's energy strategy provides additional policy coherence and continental-level coordination. APRA also leverages Africa's reserves of Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETMs) such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements to support clean-technology value chains. By promoting local processing and value addition, the initiative can anchor new industries, enhance competitiveness, and generate skilled employment. Despite Africa possessing approximately 60% of the world's best solar resources, the continent continues to attract only a small share (about 2-4%) of global clean-energy investment. APRA therefore represents more than another renewable energy initiative; it is an opportunity to reposition Africa from being primarily a supplier of raw materials to becoming a competitive producer of renewable electricity, green industrial products and clean-energy technologies. Its success will ultimately depend not only on mobilising finance, but also on strengthening domestic institutions, regional electricity markets, and value addition across renewable energy supply chains. Ultimately, APRA will require targeted policy and regulatory measures aimed at overcoming existing barriers, simplifying processes, incentivising investment, and harmonising legal frameworks to enable seamless project execution; capacity building and knowledge sharing among stakeholders; and robust monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive strategies for accelerated implementation success.



1. APRA as a Collaborative Platform for Renewable Energy Acceleration

The Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) is an Africa-led international platform that combines political leadership, project facilitation, and investment mobilisation to accelerate renewable energy deployment and green industrialisation. Rooted in the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call for Action, APRA was launched at COP28 in Dubai on 02 December 2023. Currently, APRA's member countries include Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The partnership receives active support from Denmark, Germany, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Power Shift Africa, with IRENA serving as its secretariat and a dedicated office under UNOPS established to support implementation[1]. As such, the initiative reflects a collective commitment to sustainable energy transitions across the continent. APRA aims to accelerate energy transitions and enable clean industrial growth, drive renewables-based productivity and job creation, and enhance lives and livelihoods through affordable, reliable electricity access[2]. In doing so, it seeks to position renewables as the foundation of competitiveness in manufacturing, digital services, mobility, and climate-smart agriculture.

The timing of APRA's creation is significant, given Africa's rapidly growing energy demand, mounting climate risks, and vast untapped renewable energy potential. In response, APRA's founding members have committed to deepening partnerships and leveraging innovative strategies to accelerate deployment[3]. While each member country faces distinct energy challenges, they share a common objective: to transform Africa's energy landscape and underpin inclusive industrial growth. The engagement of international partners signals global recognition of the initiative and underscores the importance of transnational cooperation in overcoming systemic barriers to clean energy transitions.

APRA also fills an important institutional gap within Africa's energy architecture. While continental initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM), and regional power pools have advanced energy integration, they have generally lacked a dedicated platform focused on accelerating renewable energy deployment through coordinated political leadership, investment mobilisation and project facilitation. APRA complements rather than duplicates these initiatives by providing an implementation-oriented mechanism for scaling renewable energy investments.

APRA's strategic vision is rooted in addressing persistent energy access gaps while contributing to global decarbonisation efforts. Its mandate is anchored on key implementation targets of achieving 37 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, tripling renewable energy deployment, doubling energy-efficiency improvements, and modernising grids to integrate variable renewables[4]. These objectives align with broader continental frameworks such AfSEM, regional power pools, and the African Continental Free

1 APRA (2025). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.aprafrica.org/

2 IRENA (2025a). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.irena.org/Energy-Transition/Partnerships/APRA

3 APRA (2025). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.aprafrica.org/

4 IRENA (2025a). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.irena.org/Energy-Transition/Partnerships/APRA

Trade Area (AfCFTA). Together, these frameworks prioritise regional power system integration, cross-border electricity trade, and regulatory harmonisation as pathways to improved energy security and sustainable economic development. Meeting these targets will require harmonised planning, standardised policy frameworks, and coordinated investments in transmission infrastructure.

A core function of APRA is to catalyse investment in renewable energy through innovative financing models[5]. By engaging governments, development finance institutions, private investors, and international organisations, APRA seeks to mobilise the capital required to bridge Africa's renewable investment gap. For example, in January 2025 the African Development Bank (AfDB), in partnership with PowerGen and other partners such as the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU), and the EDFI Management Company, launched a renewable energy platform designed to provide clean electricity access to approximately 70,000 households, demonstrating the potential of public-private partnerships to deliver tangible outcomes[6]. APRA intends to replicate and scale such models across member states[7].

Unlike many previous energy initiatives that primarily focused on policy coordination, APRA seeks to reduce transaction costs by bringing governments, financiers, project developers and development partners together through a common implementation platform. This coordinated approach has the potential to shorten project development timelines, improve investment certainty and accelerate project execution across participating countries.

Equally, APRA serves as a platform for coordination and knowledge exchange among governments and partners. By supporting the sharing of best practices, emerging technologies, and policy innovations, the platform strengthens national capabilities to deploy renewable energy at scale. This collaborative mechanism is critical for overcoming persistent bottlenecks, including inadequate grid infrastructure, regulatory delays, limited technical capacity, and high project development costs.



A new renewable energy platform supported by the African Development Bank and partners will serve nearly 70,000 households.

5 IRENA (2025b). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.irena.org/Energy-Transition/Partnerships/APRA

6 AfDB (2025). African Development Bank, PowerGen, and Partners Launch Transformative Renewable Energy Platform to Scale Clean Energy Access Across the Continent. https://afdb.africa-newsroom.com/press/african-development-bank-powergen-and-partners-launch-transformative-renewable-energy-platform-to-scale-clean-energy-access-across-the-continent1?lang=en

7 IRENA (2025b). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.irena.org/Energy-Transition/Partnerships/APRA

Role of global alliances

APRA represents a pivotal initiative for advancing renewable energy development across the African continent. By leveraging international alliances and aligning its objectives with global climate commitments, it has established itself as a dynamic platform for accelerating renewable deployment. APRA's engagement with global fora demonstrates its commitment to mobilising international support and advancing actionable strategies for sustainable energy transitions in Africa, and its role as a collaborative platform is reflected in its ability to convene diverse stakeholders to address the interconnected challenges of energy access, security, and green growth. At COP28, held in Dubai in December 2023, African leaders showcased APRA as a strategic response to the continent's energy priorities, reinforcing the importance of partnerships in overcoming financial, technical, and policy constraints. Their collective commitment underscored the urgency of aligning national ambitions with broader international frameworks, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, which targets universal access to sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy[8,9]. These kinds of international platforms are central to advancing APRA's objectives. They provide platforms for African countries to present progress, share best practices, and secure global commitments. Since 2024, APRA has also convened dedicated investment forums and worked with partners to develop project pipelines, standardise tools, and attract blended finance for renewable energy and downstream industrial opportunities. Recent forums emphasise practical project facilitation and targeted investor matchmaking[10].

A key driver of APRA's momentum is its ability to foster global partnerships. Strategic alliances like the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership could provide the technical expertise, financing, and institutional support necessary to scale renewable energy solutions[11]. By aligning with



Left to right; German Chancelor Olaf Scholz, Kenya's President William Samoei Ruto, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Namibia's Deputy-Prime Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, and IRENA's Director General Francesco La Camera at COP28, December 2023.

8 IRENA (2023). Heads of State Accelerate the Partnership for Renewables in Africa at COP28. https://www.irena.org/News/pressreleases/2023/Dec/Heads-of-State-Accelerate-the-Partnership-for-Renewables-in-Africa-at-COP28

9 EU (2022). Africa-EU Energy Partnership. https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/international-cooperation/key-partner-countries-and-regions/africa_en

10 APRA (2025). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.aprafrica.org/

11 EU (2022). Africa-EU Energy Partnership. https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/international-cooperation/key-partner-countries-and-regions/africa_en

international frameworks, APRA strengthens investor confidence and underscores the interconnectedness of Africa's energy transition with global climate objectives. These partnerships reinforce the mutual benefits of securing clean, affordable, and reliable energy on both continents. Similarly, regional cooperation in the form of regional power pools and cross-border integration presents significant opportunities and is usefully embedded in APRA's strategy, given the diversity of Africa's energy resources and uneven infrastructure development. APRA supports harmonised policies and regulatory frameworks to create a conducive environment for investment and market integration. This approach not only enhances energy security and affordability but also strengthens the continent's capacity to meet climate commitments, enabling more efficient utilisation of abundant solar, wind, and hydropower resources.

APRA also emerges at a time of growing geopolitical competition for Africa's renewable energy resources, critical minerals and emerging green industries. The increasing engagement of the European Union, the US, Japan, China and Gulf states reflects Africa's strategic importance in the global energy transition. Through APRA, African countries have an opportunity to negotiate partnerships from a stronger collective position, ensuring that investment supports domestic industrial development, technology transfer and long-term economic transformation rather than simply securing access to resources.

Role of international support

International support, particularly from organisations and countries such as IRENA, the UAE, Denmark, and Germany, has been instrumental in driving Africa's renewable energy agenda. These partnerships facilitate technology transfer, capacity building, and financial assistance, addressing critical gaps in infrastructure and expertise. Furthermore, they underscore the importance of collaboration in overcoming challenges related to policy, regulation, and institutional capacity. APRA, by serving as a unifying platform, can harness these collaborative efforts to accelerate the continent's energy transition.

As a leading global organisation, IRENA has played a pivotal role in accelerating renewable energy adoption across 16 countries through technical assistance, capacity-building programmes, and policy frameworks that support sustainable energy transitions. Through its Clean Energy Corridor initiative, the organisation has encouraged regional cooperation and cross-border electricity trade, fostering integration among power pools and enabling the efficient utilisation of renewable energy resources[12]. This initiative aligns seamlessly with APRA's goal of promoting interconnected energy systems and facilitating cross-border partnerships for renewable energy development.



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Germany, meanwhile, has established itself as a steadfast supporter of Africa's energy transition through various bilateral and multilateral initiatives. German development agencies, such as the German Development Organization (GIZ), have been actively involved in providing technical assistance, financial support, and policy advisory services to African governments. Its partnerships often emphasize the importance of regulatory frameworks and institutional

12 IRENA (2025c). Africa. https://www.irena.org/How-we-work/Africa

capacity building, which are crucial for the successful deployment and scaling of renewable energy projects. Such efforts complement APRA's objectives by addressing policy and regulatory enablers that facilitate the growth of renewable energy across the continent.

The UAE, through its flagship renewable energy company Masdar, has also emerged as a key player in advancing the renewable energy sector. Masdar's agreements with Angola, Uganda, and Zambia to develop renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of up to 5GW demonstrate the UAE's commitment to supporting energy transformation in Africa[13].

Similarly, Denmark, which is renowned for its expertise in wind energy and sustainable solutions, has contributed to Africa's renewable energy landscape. By leveraging its expertise in energy-efficient technologies and wind power systems, it has supported African countries to harness their vast wind energy potential. Danish collaborations have often focused on capacity building, knowledge transfer, and technical assistance to ensure the successful implementation of renewable energy projects[14]. These contributions are instrumental in enhancing APRA's role as a collaborative platform, facilitating the integration of advanced technologies and sustainable practices.

In addition to these partners, Japan, the United States, and UNOPS are emerging as increasingly influential supporters of Africa's renewable energy transition and APRA's implementation agenda. Japan has provided concessional finance, high-efficiency renewable technologies, and grid-stability expertise through agencies such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), supporting both utility-scale deployment and energy-efficient industrial development in Africa[15].

At the same time, although momentum has slowed down under the Trump administration, the United States, through initiatives such as Power Africa, the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and USAID, has mobilised private capital, offered political-risk mitigation instruments, and supported legal and regulatory reform to improve investment climates in several African countries[16]. Meanwhile, UNOPS contributes critical implementation capacity by delivering project management support, procurement transparency, and infrastructure oversight across complex, multi-country programmes[17].

Further, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), and Power Shift Africa, all of which are relatively new entrants to APRA, are increasingly shaping Africa's renewable energy landscape.

GEAPP leverages blended finance and philanthropic capital to de-risk clean energy investments, accelerate distributed renewables, strengthen grid infrastructure, and expand energy access in underserved regions across the continent[18]. By convening public, private, and development partners, it mobilises large-scale capital flows and technical assistance to scale commercially viable clean-power solutions[19].

13 Masdar (2023). Masdar to Develop 5 GW of Renewable Energy Projects to Advance Africa's Clean Energy Objectives. https://masdar.ae/en/news/newsroom/masdar-to-develop-5-gw-of-renewable-energy-projects

14 State of Green (2024). Denmark expands green collaboration across the African continent. https://stateofgreen.com/en/news/denmark-expands-green-collaboration-across-the-african-continent/

15 AfDB (2024). Japan boosts African Development Fund with JPY 51.67 billion concessional loan. https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/japan-boosts-african-development-fund-jpy-5167-billion-concessional-loan-74858#:~:text=Japan%2C%20October%202024.%20The%20African%20Development%20Bank,(CDL)%20agreement%20towards%20the%20African%20Development%20Fund.

16 AIIA (2025). The Impact of the US–Africa Leaders Summit on Political and Investment Risks in Africa. https://atlasinstitute.org/the-impact-of-the-us-africa-leaders-summit-on-political-and-investment-risks-in-africa/

17 UNOPS (2025). Expanding implementation capacity. https://www.unops.org/impact/united-to-deliver/expanding-implementation-capacity

18 GEAPP (2025). Our investments. https://energyalliance.org/investments/

19 IFC (2025). Bilateral Climate Facility: IFC-Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet Partnership.

https://www.ifc.org/en/what-we-do/sector-expertise/blended-finance/climate/ifc-global-energy-alliance-for-people-and-planet

Complementing this, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund is channelling mission-aligned financing and grant support into Africa's energy transition, backing programmes that promote equitable policy frameworks and community-centred decarbonisation pathways[20].

Through the support of Power Shift Africa, a Nairobi-based climate and development organisation, APRA will benefit from enhanced regional capacity for just-transition advocacy, regulatory reform, and evidence-based policymaking[21]. Together, these actors reinforce the enabling environment for renewable deployment by improving investment readiness, supporting climate governance, and advancing socially inclusive transition strategies across multiple African jurisdictions. While international partnerships remain indispensable, long-term sustainability will require progressively strengthening domestic financing institutions, expanding local capital markets, and increasing African ownership of renewable energy investments. External finance should therefore complement, not substitute, strong domestic investment ecosystems.

Investments, financing models, and partnerships under APRA

APRA's documentation and forum outputs reveal a diversified mix of financing approaches designed to mobilise capital at scale and de-risk renewable energy investments across multiple jurisdictions[22]. Core models include:

i. **Blended finance** structures that combine concessional capital, grants, and commercial investment to improve internal rates of return (IRR), particularly for early-stage or first-of-kind projects. These mechanisms help crowd in private capital by reducing perceived technology, market, and sovereign risk.

ii. **Public–private partnerships (PPPs)** applied to renewable generation assets and associated industrial offtake, including green hydrogen, battery manufacturing, and mineral processing. PPP frameworks provide long-term offtake certainty and enable governments to leverage private sector efficiency and innovation.

iii. **Guarantees and political risk insurance** offered by multilateral development banks and agencies and modelled on instruments such as those provided by MIGA to support cross-border infrastructure, regional transmission lines, and procurement agreements. These instruments help mitigate currency, regulatory, and counterparty risks.

iv. **Project preparatory facilities (PPFs)** that fund early-stage technical, legal, financial, and environmental studies. By supporting feasibility work and standardised documentation, PPFs accelerate bankability, shorten time-to-financial close, and expand the investable pipeline.

v. **Mobilising domestic capital** since, beyond international development finance, African pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, commercial banks and insurance companies remain significantly underutilised sources of long-term infrastructure finance. Creating appropriate investment frameworks and risk-sharing instruments could unlock substantial domestic resources while reducing exposure to foreign exchange volatility.

APRA's value proposition is to reduce transaction costs and cycle times by standardising procurement tools, aggregating project pipelines across participating countries, and deploying political engagement to unblock regulatory bottlenecks and expedite approvals. Through these mechanisms, APRA seeks to strengthen investor confidence, enable economies of scale, and support replicable project development models across the continent.

20 Rockefeller Foundation (2024). Rockefeller Foundation Advances African-Led Energy Transition Solutions at COP29. https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/news/rockefeller-foundation-advances-african-led-energy-transition-solutions-at-cop29/

21 Power Shift Africa (2025). Power Shift Africa. https://www.powershiftafrica.org/

22 APRA (2025). Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). https://www.aprafrica.org/



APRA combines political leadership, project facilitation, and investment mobilisation to drive a continent-wide clean energy transition.

2. Policy, Regulatory, and Institutional Enablers for APRA

Effective APRA implementation depends on supportive policy frameworks, coherent regulations, and strong institutions. These enablers create the governance, coordination, accountability, and capacity needed to scale adaptation and resilience initiatives. They include:

Integration with AfSEM and regional power pools

APRA operates within a complex policy, regulatory, and institutional landscape while aiming to integrate the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and regional power pools to establish a unified energy market. This endeavour is critical for enhancing cross-border energy collaboration, facilitating renewable energy deployment, and advancing the continent's energy transition agenda. The establishment and expansion of these frameworks reflect a concerted effort to address Africa's growing energy demand while leveraging renewable resources and fostering sustainable economic growth.

AfSEM, initiated in 2020, serves as the centrepiece of regional energy integration efforts. Its primary objective is to unify the continent's fragmented energy markets and create a robust platform for cross-border electricity trade[23]. Key milestones highlight its progressive development, including enhanced regional integration by 2023 and the development in 2025 of institutional frameworks aimed at strengthening regulatory and institutional support for energy collaboration in 2025[24]. This trajectory aligns with APRA's broader mission of accelerating renewable energy deployment across Africa and underscores the critical role of policy harmonisation and institutional capacity-building in achieving energy market unification.

Regional power pools, including the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), the West African Power Pool (WAPP), and the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP), are integral to the success of AfSEM and APRA. These pools facilitate regional electricity trade, leveraging shared infrastructure and policy frameworks to optimise energy resource utilisation. For instance, the construction of a 1,303-kilometer, 225-kilovolt transmission line connecting Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (CLSG) under the WAPP framework serves as an example of successful regional collaboration in energy infrastructure development[25]. SAPP has benefited from technical assistance under the RETRADE SAPP project, supported by the World Bank[26].



Map: Transco CLSG

23 AEP (2025). African Single Electricity Market Program Gains Momentum. https://africa-energy-portal.org/news/ethiopia-african-single-electricity-market-program-gains-momentum

24 AU (2025). Towards a Unified Electricity Market AfSEM-CMP Technical Meeting in Addis Ababa Solidifies Africa's Power Integration Trajectory. https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20250701/towards-unified-electricity-market-afsem-cmp-technical-meeting-addis-ababa

25 World Bank (2025). Powering Africa: The Transformational Impact of Regional Energy Projects in West Africa. https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2025/02/06/powering-africa-the-transformational-impact-of-regional-energy-projects-in-west-africa#:~:text=Results%20Highlights,Bissau%2C%20Senegal%20and%20The%20Gambia

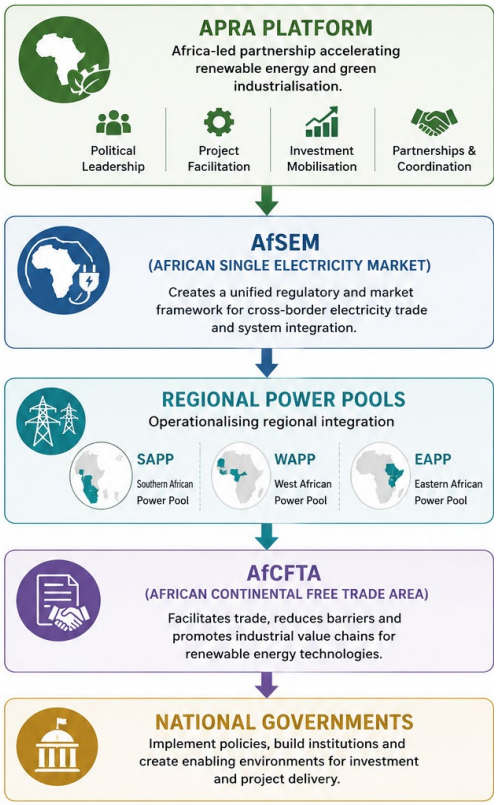
26 World Bank (2025). World Bank and Southern African Power Pool Partner to Expand Regional Power Trade. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/11/04/world-bank-and-southern-african-power-pool-partner-to-expand-regional-power-trade#:~:text=November%204%2C%202025-,World%20Bank%20and%20Southern%20African%20Power%20Pool%20Partner%20to%20Expand,infrastructure%20projects%20in%20the%20region

This initiative aims to expand the regional electricity market and increase cross-border trade within the SAPP network, thereby boosting access to affordable and sustainable energy across Southern Africa[27]. Similarly, the EAPP has announced plans to launch a centralised day-ahead market by 2025, a move expected to enhance energy trade efficiency and benefit over 620 million people by integrating shared infrastructure and promoting low-cost renewable energy trade[28]. These developments demonstrate the growing emphasis on regional collaboration and the pivotal role of power pools in advancing Africa's energy transition.

At the same time, expanding transmission infrastructure will be fundamental to APRA's success renewable energy resources are unevenly distributed across the continent, with countries possessing different comparative advantages in solar, wind, hydro and geothermal resources. Strengthening regional interconnectors will enable surplus electricity to be traded across borders, improve grid stability, reduce generation costs, and support much higher shares of renewable energy within national electricity systems.

A critical enabler for APRA's integration with AfSEM and regional power pools lies in the harmonisation of policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks across member states. Divergent energy policies and regulations have historically hindered cross-border energy trade and the full utilisation of regional power pools. APRA addresses this challenge by fostering alignment among national energy policies and supporting the development of standardised regulatory mechanisms. This process involves capacity-building initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge sharing to ensure that member states can effectively implement harmonised frameworks. Additionally, the integration of AfSEM with regional power pools requires the establishment of comprehensive institutional arrangements, which are essential for managing cross-border energy flows, resolving disputes, and promoting equitable resource distribution.

The role of AfSEM in the energy transition is further underscored by its commitment to scaling up renewable energy technologies. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower offer significant potential to address Africa's energy deficit while mitigating the environmental impacts of fossil fuel dependency. APRA serves as a collaborative platform to mobilise investments, financing models, and partnerships that support renewable energy projects across the continent. By leveraging the regulatory and institutional mechanisms established under AfSEM and regional power pools, APRA can facilitate the integration of renewables into the energy mix, ensuring their accessibility and affordability for all African nations.



27 World Bank (2025). World Bank and Southern African Power Pool Partner to Expand Regional Power Trade. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/11/04/world-bank-and-southern-african-power-pool-partner-to-expand-regional-power-trade#:~:text=November%204%2C%202025-,World%20Bank%20and%20Southern%20African%20Power%20Pool%20Partner%20to%20Expand,infrastructure%20projects%20in%20the%20region

28 ESI Africa (2024). East Africa: EAPP setting up centralised energy market in 2025. https://www.esi-africa.com/business-and-markets/east-africa-eapp-setting-up-centralised-energy-market-in-2025/#:~:text=The%2013%20East%20Africa%20Power,the%20EAPP%20of%20the%20initiative

Harmonisation of policies under AfCFTA and AU energy strategies

APRA aims to foster renewable energy adoption across the continent by addressing policy, regulatory, and institutional challenges. A critical aspect of achieving this goal lies in the harmonisation of policies under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and African Union (AU) energy strategies. These frameworks collectively emphasize reducing trade barriers, streamlining energy trade regulations, promoting renewable energy technologies, and aligning national and continental energy objectives to provide a robust foundation for regional energy integration[29].

The AU Energy Division is tasked with, among others, facilitating the implementation of energy development strategies aimed at increasing energy access, improving livelihoods, and ensuring environmental sustainability[30]. These efforts are aligned with APRA's focus on renewable energy acceleration and provide institutional backing for policy harmonisation initiatives. By fostering collaboration between regional power pools, national governments, and private sector stakeholders, APRA can leverage the existing frameworks to create a conducive environment for renewable energy investments. Regional power pools, such as the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and the West African Power Pool (WAPP), serve as critical platforms for cross-border energy trade and infrastructure development, enabling countries to share resources and balance energy demand and supply.

The AfCFTA, established to create a single continental market for goods, services, and labour, plays an integral role in facilitating cross-border trade within Africa. By removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, it encourages regional economic integration, which is vital for the development and distribution of renewable energy infrastructure and technologies[31]. This focus on reducing cross-border trade barriers is complemented by the AU's energy strategies, which prioritise the harmonisation of energy trade regulations to improve efficiency and promote energy trade across member states[32]. The alignment of these two frameworks provides an enabling environment for APRA to act as a collaborative platform, integrating renewable energy goals into the broader agenda of regional economic development.

The integration of AfCFTA's trade facilitation mechanisms with AU energy strategies can significantly enhance the potential for renewable energy adoption in Africa. For instance, AfCFTA's focus on reducing trade barriers provides an opportunity for smoother cross-border transactions of renewable energy equipment, technologies, and services. This, coupled with the AU's efforts to streamline energy regulations, ensures that these transactions occur within a standardised regulatory framework, minimising delays and inconsistencies. The promotion of renewable energy technologies under the AU's energy strategy further complements AfCFTA's emphasis on regional integration, creating synergies that can accelerate the implementation of renewable energy projects across the continent.

Beyond facilitating trade, AfCFTA provides an important platform for regional industrialisation. Rather than each country attempting to manufacture every renewable energy technology, regional value chains could allow countries to specialise according to comparative advantage, creating economies of scale while strengthening Africa's competitiveness within global clean energy supply chains.

29 RSA (2024). Africa's Energy Potential under the African Continental Free Trade Area: Case Study of East Africa. https://regions.regionalstudies.org/ezine/article/issue-19-africas-energy-potential/?doi=10.1080/13673882.2024.12466428#

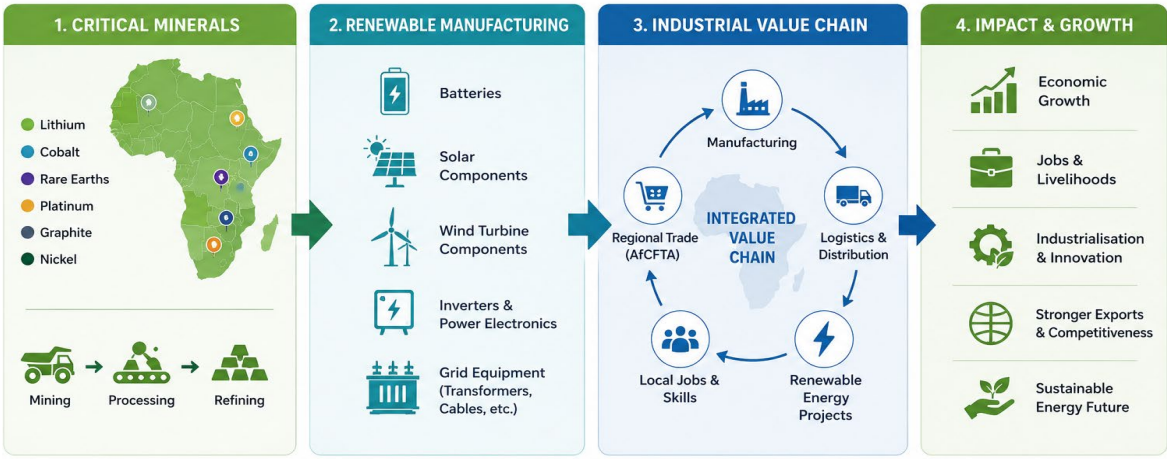
30 AFREC (2024). The African Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan. https://share.google/qzwoXyz7jqtCgtURi

31 AU (2025). The African Continental Free Trade Area. https://au.int/en/african-continental-free-trade-area

32 AFREC (2024). The African Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan. https://share.google/qzwoXyz7jqtCgtURi

Unlocking Africa's renewable energy technology manufacturing

Renewable Energy Technology Manufacturing (RETM) will play a pivotal role in advancing the objectives of APRA. As Africa seeks to harness its abundant renewable energy resources to achieve sustainable energy development, Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETMs) will be essential for enabling the continent's energy transition. Acquiring renewable energy technologies is integral to APRA's objectives as this includes solutions for generating, storing, and distributing energy effectively. These technologies include solar panels, wind turbines, battery storage systems, and other advanced energy solutions that are essential for transitioning to a low-carbon energy system. By facilitating the development of CETMs within Africa, APRA can help reduce dependency on imported technologies, enhance energy security, and create new economic opportunities for local industries.



A key enabler for RETM in Africa lies in the continent's wealth of critical energy transition minerals such as cobalt, lithium, and rare earth elements. These minerals are vital components in the production of batteries, solar panels, and other renewable energy technologies. Africa is endowed with significant reserves of these resources, with countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Africa being major global suppliers of cobalt and platinum, respectively[33]. Unlocking the potential of CETMs within Africa requires coordinated efforts to enhance exploration, extraction, and processing capabilities while ensuring that these activities are conducted sustainably and equitably.

Industrial linkages play a transformative role in connecting the development of CETMs and RETM to broader economic and energy sector advancements. By fostering value chain integration, industrial linkages can enable African countries to move beyond raw material extraction into higher-value activities such as refining, manufacturing, and exporting finished products. For instance, establishing regional hubs for critical energy transition minerals processing and clean energy technology manufacturing can create jobs, stimulate local economies, and position Africa as a global leader in renewable energy technologies. This aligns with APRA's vision of accelerating renewable energy adoption while promoting regional economic integration.

The development of industrial linkages also necessitates strong collaboration among African nations, facilitated by AfCFTA and regional power pools. AfCFTA provides a platform for reducing trade barriers and fostering economic cooperation, which is crucial for the seamless

33 WEF (2025). How critical energy minerals could be Africa's catalyst for sustainable development. https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/01/critical-energy-minerals-africa-catalyst-sustainable-development/#:~:text=Mthuli%20Ncube,systems%2C%20technologies%20and%20electric%20vehicles

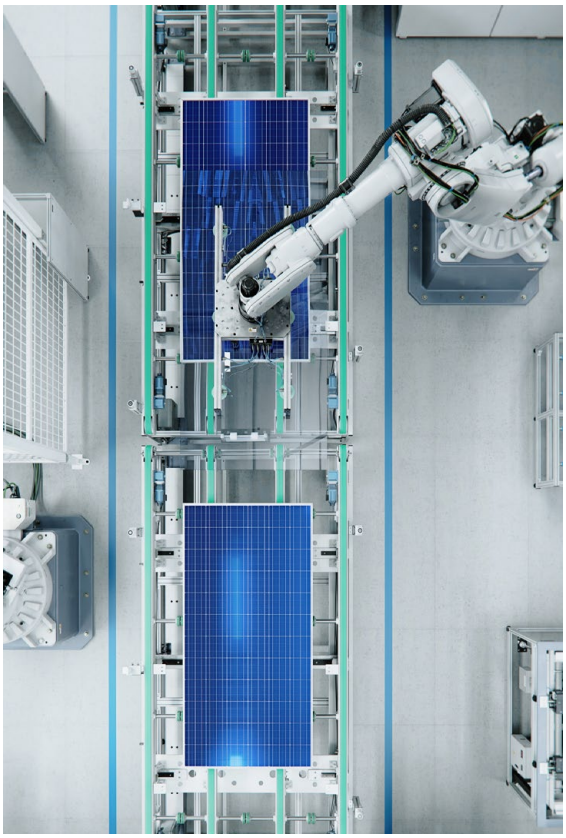
movement of CETMs and related technologies across borders. Similarly, regional power pools, including the SAPP, WAPP, and EAPP, will enable cross-border energy trade and integration, ensuring that renewable energy generated in one country can be efficiently distributed to neighbouring nations. By leveraging these frameworks, APRA can bolster the regional supply chain for CETMs and promote more cohesive energy sector development.



The impact of CETMs and industrial linkages on Africa's energy transition extends beyond the renewable energy sector. By integrating CETMs into local industries, African countries can stimulate innovation, enhance technical expertise, and diversify their economies. For example, the establishment of research and development (R&D) centres focused on clean energy technologies can foster innovation and drive competitiveness in global markets. Moreover, industrial linkages can support the development of ancillary industries such as transportation and logistics, which are essential for the efficient movement of CETMs and manufactured products across the continent.

Policy, regulatory, and institutional enablers are essential for supporting CETM development and industrial linkages under APRA. Governments must prioritise the creation of conducive environments for investment in clean energy technologies, including the establishment of clear and transparent regulatory frameworks. Incentives such as tax breaks, subsidies, and public-private partnerships can attract both domestic and international investors to the renewable energy sector.

Additionally, institutional mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure effective coordination among stakeholders, including governments, private companies, research institutions, and civil society organisations. The African Union (AU) has recognised the importance of promoting sustainable energy development as part of its broader energy strategies. For instance, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, has emphasized the need to support Africa's sustainable and climate-resilient



energy trajectory[34]. Such high-level advocacy underscores the urgency of aligning policy frameworks and institutional efforts to achieve the continent's renewable energy ambitions. APRA, as a collaborative platform, can play a vital role in facilitating these alignments and driving the implementation of strategic energy initiatives.

Unlocking Africa's RETM potential also requires addressing environmental and social considerations. The extraction and processing of CETMs must be guided by sustainable practices that minimise ecological degradation and prioritize the well-being of local communities. This entails implementing stringent environmental regulations, promoting responsible mining practices, and ensuring that local populations benefit from the economic opportunities generated by CETM-related industries. By adopting such practices, Africa can position itself as a global leader in sustainable energy development.

In addition to environmental and social considerations, gender inclusivity is a critical aspect of CETM and industrial linkage development. Women often play a central role in community energy initiatives and are disproportionately affected by energy poverty. Therefore, ensuring their active participation in the renewable energy sector is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable outcomes. Programmes that promote women's involvement in clean energy technology manufacturing and related industries can contribute to gender equality while enhancing the sector's overall resilience and productivity.

Renewable energy technology manufacturing should extend beyond mineral beneficiation alone. Significant opportunities also exist in the production of transformers, cables, mounting structures, inverters, battery assembly, smart meters and other balance-of-system components. Developing these industries would diversify manufacturing capacity, strengthen local supply chains and generate substantially greater employment than mineral exports alone.

Innovative financing models and private sector engagement

Innovative financing models and private sector engagement play pivotal roles in advancing renewable energy projects under APRA. As Africa seeks to address its energy deficit and transition towards sustainable energy systems, mobilising investments and fostering partnerships between public, private, and multilateral entities has become increasingly critical.

The need for innovative financing models stems from the substantial investment requirements of renewable energy projects, which often surpass the fiscal capacity of governments alone. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) provide one such mechanism, enabling governments to collaborate with private entities for shared investments in infrastructure development. PPPs are particularly effective in mitigating risks associated with large-scale renewable energy projects as they enable the distribution of financial, operational, and market-related risks between public and private stakeholders. By leveraging the resources and expertise of both sectors, PPPs improve financial feasibility and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy systems. Furthermore, PPPs inherently incorporate risk-sharing, making them an attractive model for large-scale renewable energy investments[35].

Green bonds have emerged as another powerful financing model dedicated to funding renewable energy projects. These debt instruments attract institutional investors by offering a lower cost of capital compared to traditional financing methods. They not only provide a steady flow of capital but also align with global sustainability

34 AU (2025). Press Briefing Notes H.E. Dr Amani Abou-Zeid Commissioner, Infrastructure and Energy. https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20250216/press-briefing-notes-he-dr-amani-abou-zeid-commissioner-infrastructure-and#:~:text=In%20line%20with%20the%20global,Efficiency%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan

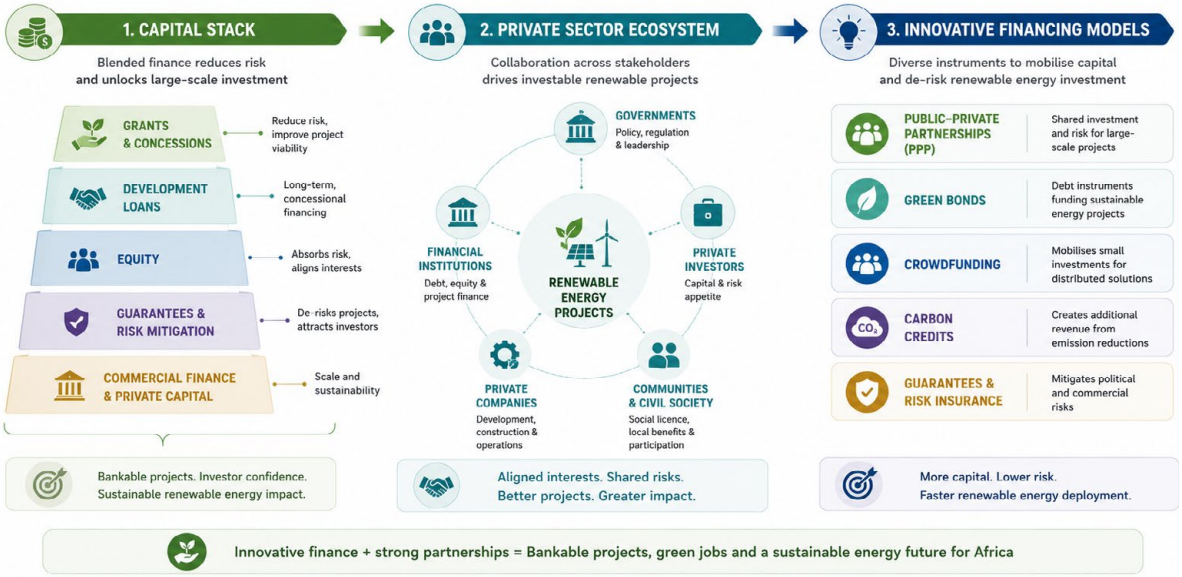
35 Klagge & Nweke-Eze (2020). Financing large-scale renewable-energy projects in Kenya: investor types, international connections, and financialization. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/04353684.2020.1729662

goals, thereby increasing their appeal to environmentally conscious investors. By facilitating access to large-scale funding, green bonds are instrumental in scaling up renewable energy projects under APRA and can serve as a cornerstone for private sector engagement in Africa's energy transition.

At the same time, foreign exchange risk remains one of the principal barriers to renewable energy investment across Africa, and expanding local currency financing, developing currency hedging mechanisms, and strengthening domestic capital markets would reduce financing costs while improving the bankability of renewable energy projects.

Bank, has underscored the importance of such inclusive financing models in enabling private investment and driving sustainable energy development in Africa[36].

Carbon credits, as market-based instruments, offer another avenue for incentivising renewable energy investments. By assigning monetary value to carbon emissions reductions, carbon credits create additional revenue streams for renewable energy projects. This mechanism not only promotes financial sustainability but also aligns with broader environmental objectives such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change. The integration of carbon credit schemes into APRA's initiatives



Crowdfunding represents a more grassroots approach to financing renewable energy initiatives. By pooling small-scale investments from individuals through online platforms, crowdfunding enables broader community participation and ownership in renewable energy projects. This model enhances community engagement, fosters trust and diversifies funding sources. It is particularly well-suited to decentralised energy solutions such as mini-grids and off-grid solar installations, which are essential for improving energy access in remote and underserved areas. The Africa Energy Market Place (AEMP), a collaborative investment platform developed by the African Development

can help attract private sector players who seek to comply with international environmental standards while simultaneously generating profits.

In addition to financing models, fostering effective partnerships is critical for the success of renewable energy projects under APRA. Strategic alliances among governments, private entities, multilateral organisations, and local

36 AfDB (2021). Africa Energy Market Place (AEMP). https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/africa-energy-market-place/about-aemp#:~:text=The%20Africa%20Energy%20Market%20Place,sector%2C%20and%20development%20partners%20together.

communities can facilitate knowledge sharing, technological transfer, and capacity building. The collaborative nature of platforms like AEMP demonstrates the value of such partnerships in mobilising investments and enhancing coordination across stakeholders[37]. By bringing together governments, private investors, and development partners, APRA can create an enabling environment for renewable energy acceleration.

Furthermore, private sector engagement is integral to the success of APRA, as it brings technical expertise, innovation, and financial resources to the table. However, attracting private investment requires addressing several challenges, including regulatory barriers, market instability, and perceived risks. Policy and institutional enablers play a crucial role in mitigating these obstacles and creating a conducive environment for investment. Harmonised policies across national and regional levels, aligned with frameworks such as the AfSEM and the AfCFTA, can enhance cross-border integration and market access for renewable energy projects. Clear regulatory guidelines, transparent procurement processes, and incentives such as tax breaks or subsidies are essential for fostering investor confidence.

Risk mitigation is another key aspect of attracting private investment under APRA. Renewable energy projects, especially in developing regions, often face risks related to political instability, currency fluctuations, and technical challenges. Addressing these risks requires the adoption of instruments such as guarantees, insurance schemes, and risk-sharing mechanisms. For example, credit guarantees can enhance the bankability of projects by reducing the likelihood of default, while insurance schemes can provide coverage against unforeseen events that may disrupt project implementation.

The declining costs of renewable energy technologies further strengthen the business case for private sector participation in APRA initiatives. Renewable energy systems are becoming increasingly cost-effective and accessible, making them a viable alternative to traditional energy sources such as diesel generators[38]. The combination of lower technology costs and innovative financing models creates a compelling opportunity for private investors to engage in Africa's renewable energy sector.

Table 1: Breakdown of innovative financing models and private sector engagement

Financing model	Description	Key benefits
Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)	Collaborative investment model between government and private sector.	Risk-sharing, improved financial feasibility.
Green Bonds	Debt instruments dedicated to funding renewable energy projects.	Attracts institutional investors, lower cost of capital.
Crowdfunding	Pooling small-scale investments from individuals through online platforms.	Increased community engagement, diversified funding sources.

37 AfDB (2021). Africa Energy Market Place (AEMP). https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/africa-energy-market-place/about-aemp#:~:text=The%20Africa%20Energy%20Market%20Place,sector%2C%20and%20development%20partners%20together

38 Idoko et al. (2023). Maximizing the cost effectiveness of electric power generation through the integration of distributed generators: wind, hydro and solar power. https://bnrc.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s42269-023-01125-7



APRA therefore represents more than another renewable energy initiative; it is an opportunity to reposition Africa from being primarily a supplier of raw materials to becoming a competitive producer of renewable electricity, green industrial products and clean-energy technologies.

3. Practical Recommendations for Accelerating APRA's Implementation

This section presents practical recommendations for accelerating the implementation of APRA by translating strategic priorities into actionable measures. It focuses on strengthening governance, mobilising finance, enhancing institutional capacity, fostering partnerships, and improving monitoring and accountability. Together, these recommendations provide a roadmap for advancing coordinated, inclusive, and effective implementation that delivers tangible adaptation and resilience outcomes.

Policy and regulatory measures to drive renewable energy adoption

Accelerating APRA requires targeted policy and regulatory measures aimed at fostering renewable energy adoption across the continent. Such measures are essential to overcoming existing barriers, simplifying processes, incentivising investment, and harmonising legal frameworks to enable seamless project execution.

i. **Streamlining administrative processes:** To achieve APRA's mission of driving renewable energy development in Africa, policy reforms must prioritise the streamlining of administrative processes related to project approvals. Complex and protracted approval procedures often discourage investment and impede the timely delivery of renewable energy projects. Simplifying regulatory frameworks and establishing clear guidelines for project developers can significantly reduce project timelines and administrative costs, thereby enhancing efficiency. These reforms should include the creation of centralised one-stop shops for permits, licenses, and compliance requirements, coupled with digital platforms to facilitate transparent and accessible processes. Such measures have been proven effective in other contexts, as demonstrated by the South African government's Energy Action Plan, which emphasizes the importance of streamlined processes for expediting renewable energy initiatives[39].

ii. **Mainstreaming Just Transition, Community Rights and Social Licence:** For APRA to achieve a truly inclusive and sustainable accelerated renewable energy deployment, these administrative processes must be grounded in just transition principles that place affected communities at the centre of renewable energy development and ensure meaningful, participatory and rights-based environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs). This requires meaningful and inclusive participation by affected communities and all stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle. Communities should be able to influence decisions from project planning and approval through implementation, monitoring and decommissioning. It also requires equitable and structured benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that communities hosting renewable energy infrastructure receive a fair and tangible share of project benefits. Transparency, access to information and accountable governance are equally essential. This should include timely disclosure of project information, accessible grievance and redress mechanisms, and meaningful oversight of project impacts and commitments. Finally, renewable

39 Norton Rose Fullbright (2021). South Africa's energy sector and the just transition. https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/es-419/knowledge/publications/9c01f24b/south-africas-energy-sector-and-the-just-transition#:~:text=Under%20this%20amendment%2C%20IPPs%20will,and%20enabling%20renewable%20IPP%20participation

energy projects should promote local economic development and livelihood protection through local employment, skills development, enterprise opportunities, and measures to prevent or remedy adverse impacts on existing livelihoods. With respect to ESIAs, it is critical that all potential environmental and social impacts are comprehensively identified and transparently disclosed, with clear and enforceable mitigation measures to prevent, minimise or remedy adverse impacts and ensure that the costs of renewable energy development are not unfairly borne by host communities. These principles should be systematically integrated into the planning, approval, implementation, monitoring and decommissioning of all renewable energy projects supported or facilitated through APRA. This will help ensure that accelerated deployment does not come at the expense of community rights, livelihoods or environmental justice. It will also be critical to securing and maintaining the social licence necessary for renewable energy projects to proceed beyond plans, build community trust and support, manage social risks, and achieve long-term viability and sustainability.

iii. **Investment incentives:** Investment incentives play a pivotal role in driving private-sector participation in renewable energy projects. Governments across Africa should adopt measures to attract domestic and international investment, including tax breaks, subsidies, and concessional financing for renewable energy developers. These incentives not only reduce the financial burden for investors but also stimulate innovation and technological advancements in the renewable energy sector. Lessons can be drawn from successful programmes such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which increased funding for clean renewable energy bonds to $2.4 billion, thereby enabling significant growth in renewable energy capacity[40]. Similarly, Africa could benefit from scaling up funding mechanisms and leveraging international financial instruments to support large-scale renewable energy projects.

iv. **Establish national APRA delivery units:** The successful implementation of APRA will require stronger institutional coordination within participating countries. In many African states, responsibilities for renewable energy development are spread across multiple ministries, utilities, regulators and investment agencies, often resulting in fragmented decision-making and lengthy project approval processes. Participating countries should therefore establish dedicated national APRA delivery units to coordinate project preparation, regulatory approvals, investor engagement and implementation across relevant institutions. These units would improve policy coherence, strengthen accountability, reduce administrative bottlenecks and provide a central platform for engaging development partners and the private sector. By streamlining coordination and improving implementation capacity, the units can accelerate renewable energy deployment while ensuring alignment with APRA's broader continental objectives.

v. **Develop regional renewable energy corridors:** APRA should promote the development of Regional Renewable Energy Corridors that integrate renewable energy generation with transmission infrastructure, industrial development and regional electricity markets. Given that renewable energy resources are unevenly distributed across Africa, greater regional planning will enable countries to capitalise on their comparative advantages while strengthening cross-border electricity

40 Chen et al. (2020). Green Stimulus in a Post-pandemic Recovery: the Role of Skills for a Resilient Recovery. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7399593/#:~:text=The%20US%20American%20Recovery%20and,billion%20on%20non%2Dgreen%20investments

trade through regional power pools and the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM). Corridor-based planning can improve grid reliability, lower electricity costs, attract industrial investment and support economies of scale for renewable energy deployment. Integrating energy infrastructure with industrial development will also strengthen regional value chains and maximise the economic benefits of Africa's energy transition.

vi. **Promote domestic renewable energy manufacturing strategies:** Renewable energy deployment should be accompanied by deliberate industrial policies that expand Africa's domestic manufacturing capacity. While the continent possesses abundant renewable energy resources and critical energy transition minerals, much of the value addition continues to occur outside Africa. Participating countries should therefore develop coordinated renewable energy manufacturing strategies through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), allowing them to specialise in different segments of regional value chains rather than duplicating manufacturing efforts. Expanding the production of renewable energy components such as batteries, inverters, transformers, cables and solar equipment would strengthen industrial competitiveness, create skilled employment and position Africa as a more significant participant in global clean energy supply chains.

vii. **Addressing legal barriers:** Addressing legal barriers that hinder renewable energy development is another critical component of effective policy reform. Outdated laws and regulatory frameworks often fail to accommodate the unique needs of renewable energy technologies, creating obstacles for project implementation. Governments must amend restrictive legal provisions to ensure alignment with modern energy transition goals. For instance, laws governing land acquisition, grid access, and power purchase agreements should be revised to provide clearer pathways for renewable energy projects. Additionally, harmonising legal frameworks across borders can facilitate cross-border trade in electricity, enabling greater integration of renewable energy into regional and continental power pools, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM).

viii. **Addressing grid integration challenges:** The integration of renewable energy into grids remains a technical challenge that must be addressed through supportive policies and regulations. As renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are inherently variable, grid operators must develop mechanisms to manage fluctuations and ensure reliability. Policies should encourage the adoption of advanced grid technologies, including energy storage systems and smart grid solutions, to enhance grid flexibility and resilience. Governments can also incentivise research and development in cutting-edge energy technologies (CETMs) to optimise grid integration and expand renewable energy capacity. Collaboration with regional power pools such as SAPP, WAPP and EAPP can further strengthen technical capabilities and promote knowledge sharing.

ix. **Creating enabling conditions for regional electricity markets:** In addition to grid integration, cross-border electricity trade presents a significant opportunity for accelerating renewable energy deployment. Policy reforms should focus on creating enabling conditions for regional electricity markets, including standardised regulations, competitive pricing mechanisms, and robust transmission infrastructure. By facilitating the exchange of renewable energy across borders, countries can optimise their energy resources, reduce costs, and enhance energy security. This aligns with the objectives of AfCFTA and AfSEM, which aim to foster economic

integration and cooperation within Africa. The establishment of common standards and protocols for cross-border electricity trade is essential for ensuring the seamless operation of interconnected grids.

x. **Cross-stakeholder engagement and partnerships:** To ensure the successful implementation of policy and regulatory reforms, governments must engage stakeholders across the public and private sectors. This includes fostering partnerships with international organisations, development finance institutions, and technology providers to mobilise resources and expertise. Capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capabilities and technical competencies are equally critical, and policymakers should also prioritise community engagement to build public support for renewable energy projects and address potential social and environmental concerns.

xi. **Strengthen project preparation and bankability:** One of the greatest barriers to scaling renewable energy investments in Africa is the limited pipeline of bankable projects. While financing remains critical, many projects fail to reach financial close due to inadequate feasibility studies, weak project preparation, regulatory uncertainty and limited technical capacity. APRA should therefore strengthen project preparation by supporting feasibility assessments, standardised project documentation, transaction advisory services and capacity building for participating countries. Improving project readiness will reduce development risks, shorten approval timelines, enhance investor confidence and increase the number of investment-ready projects capable of attracting both public and private capital. Strengthening project preparation will ultimately improve the pace and scale of renewable energy deployment across APRA member countries.

Capacity building and knowledge sharing across stakeholders

Capacity building and knowledge sharing among stakeholders are critical components in advancing the objectives of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA). A well-structured approach to capacity enhancement ensures that stakeholders across the renewable energy value chain are equipped with the necessary skills, expertise, and collaborative mechanisms to drive implementation effectively.

i. **Multi-level training programmes:** To address the challenges of renewable energy deployment in Africa, capacity-building initiatives must prioritise inclusive, multi-level training programmes tailored to the diverse needs of stakeholders. These programmes should involve government agencies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations, and local communities. By equipping these groups with technical, financial, and policy-related knowledge, Africa's renewable energy landscape can benefit from a well-informed and empowered ecosystem. For instance, programmes such as Mission 300, launched by the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank, exemplify the transformative power of targeted capacity-building efforts. Mission 300 aims to provide electricity to 300 million Africans by 2030, building upon years of groundwork laid by the energy sector[41]. Such initiatives demonstrate the importance of integrating capacity development into broader renewable energy strategies.

ii. **Stakeholder dialogue and knowledge exchange:** Effective engagement requires platforms that encourage dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration

41 World Bank (2025). Mission 300: Overview. https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/energizing-africa/overview#:~:text=An%20Overview%20of%20Mission%20300,to%20transform%20Africa's%20energy%20sector

among stakeholders with varying levels of expertise and influence. Workshops, forums, and cross-sectoral meetings are essential tools for fostering understanding and partnerships. For example, the capacity-building workshop hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and AfriCatalyst in Tanzania addressed African nations' challenges in securing fairer credit ratings, underscoring the need for favourable financing terms to achieve sustainable development goals[42]. By providing opportunities for stakeholder interaction and targeted training, such workshops help bridge gaps in knowledge and align efforts toward shared objectives.

iii. **Integration into formal education:** Education plays a fundamental role in promoting renewable energy adoption and fostering long-term capacity development. Integrating renewable energy topics into academic curricula at all levels, from primary education to higher learning institutions, can nurture a generation of professionals equipped to tackle Africa's energy challenges. Furthermore, vocational training and certification programmes should be expanded to enhance the technical skills required for renewable energy system installation, maintenance, and operation. Partnerships with international organisations and academic institutions can facilitate knowledge transfer and introduce best practices that are tailored to Africa's unique energy context. These educational initiatives contribute not only to technical capacity building but also to raising public awareness and acceptance of renewable energy technologies.

iv. **Technical capacity trainings:** Technical capacity in the development and deployment of Clean Energy Transition Mechanisms (CETMs) must be a priority within APRA's implementation strategy. CETMs encompass technologies such as solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, and energy storage solutions, which are pivotal to achieving Africa's renewable energy goals. Training programmes designed to improve expertise in CETM-related areas, such as system design, installation, and maintenance, will ensure the reliability and efficiency of renewable energy projects. Furthermore, these programmes should address the integration of CETMs into existing energy grids, focusing on grid stability, smart metering, and demand response systems. Such technical knowledge will not only enhance the operational capacity of renewable energy systems but also foster cross-border electricity trade by ensuring compatibility and reliability.

v. **Knowledge networks and collaborative database:** Knowledge sharing mechanisms, such as digital platforms, research networks, and collaborative databases, can further strengthen APRA's capacity-building efforts. Digital platforms that centralise renewable energy data, case studies, and best practices can serve as valuable resources for stakeholders seeking to expand their understanding of renewable energy technologies and implementation strategies. Research networks that connect African universities, research institutions, and international partners can facilitate the exchange of innovative ideas and solutions tailored to local contexts. Collaborative databases that track renewable energy projects, performance metrics, and capacity-building outcomes can provide insights into progress and areas for improvement, enabling stakeholders to make data-driven decisions.

42 UNDP (2024). UNDP and AfriCatalyst host capacity building workshop in Tanzania to support ongoing efforts to secure fairer credit ratings. https://www.undp.org/africa/press-releases/undp-and-africatalyst-host-capacity-building-workshop-tanzania-support-ongoing-efforts-secure-fairer-credit-ratings

Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive strategies for implementation success

Effective implementation of APRA necessitates robust monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive strategies. These components are critical for ensuring that renewable energy projects align with APRA's overarching goals while also addressing challenges and optimising opportunities inherent in the dynamic socio-economic and environmental context of Africa. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are integral to the successful deployment of renewable energy projects under APRA. They provide a structured framework for assessing progress, identifying risks, and implementing corrective actions in a timely manner. Monitoring involves continuous data collection and analysis to ensure that projects are progressing according to established plans and objectives, while evaluation determines the impact and effectiveness of these initiatives. The importance of regular monitoring and evaluation cannot be overstated, especially in regions characterised by political and economic instability, as well as fluctuating regulatory environments. These challenges necessitate a proactive approach to risk management, ensuring all stakeholders, including lenders, insurers, and equity holders remain informed of pertinent developments and their implications for project outcomes.

i. **Performance tracking and data collection:** To further accelerate APRA's implementation, it is critical to adopt best practices for performance tracking and data collection. Establishing standardised indicators and methodologies for measuring project outcomes is essential to ensure consistency and comparability across different initiatives. These indicators should encompass technical, economic, environmental, and social dimensions, providing a comprehensive assessment of project performance. For example, metrics such as energy generation capacity, grid reliability, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and community engagement can offer valuable insights into the effectiveness of renewable energy projects. Leveraging digital technologies, such as remote sensing, smart meters, and advanced analytics, can enhance the accuracy and efficiency of data collection and analysis processes, enabling stakeholders to make more informed decisions.

ii. **Iterative improvements and adaptive measures:** Another key element in accelerating APRA's implementation is fostering adaptive strategies. The dynamic nature of renewable energy projects, coupled with the complex socio-political and environmental landscape in Africa, necessitates a flexible and iterative approach to project management. Adaptive strategies involve the continuous refinement of project plans and processes based on real-time data, stakeholder feedback, and evolving circumstances. This approach aligns closely with the principles of climate change adaptation, which emphasize the importance of building resilience and responding to changing conditions in an informed and proactive manner[43]. By integrating clean energy innovation with adaptive strategies, APRA can achieve a synergistic effect, where renewable energy projects not only mitigate climate change but also contribute to broader socio-economic development goals.

Monitoring frameworks should include measurable indicators beyond installed renewable capacity. These should include private investment mobilised, jobs created, women's participation in renewable industries, local manufacturing capacity developed, transmission infrastructure completed, cross-border electricity traded and greenhouse gas emissions avoided. Tracking these indicators will provide a more comprehensive assessment of APRA's developmental impact.

43 Global Center on Adaptation (2024). Three ways that clean energy innovation and climate change adaptation can work in lockstep. https://gca.org/three-ways-that-clean-energy-innovation-and-climate-change-adaptation-can-work-in-lockstep/

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