



AFRICA HOUSE

Insight & Access. Projects & Trade.

# Notes from Africa

Issue 322, March 2022

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS EDITION

- Botswana's Largest Solar Power Plant to be Built
- Progress on Dar es Salaam-Mwanza Rail Line, Tanzania
- Initial Agreement for Construction of Nacala LNG Power Plant, Mozambique
- Graphite Projects in Tanzania and Madagascar
- Planning of Lindi LNG Project, Tanzania
- Deployment of *Google* Subsea Fibre Optic Cable to South Africa
- Further Development of Potable Water Supply Programme to Greater Libreville, Gabon
- *East Africa Community* Programme for Doubling of Fruit and Vegetable Exports
- Lodges and Support Infrastructure for New Maputo National Park, Mozambique
- Inauguration of *Lin Medicare* Centre, Maputo, Mozambique
- Development of Kribi Residential City, Cameroon
- Major Road Rehabilitation Programme, Senegal
- Renewable Energy Programme, Rwanda
- First Copper Concentrate from Kombat Mine, Namibia
- Commercialisation of Turkana Oil Production, Kenya
- Second Phase of *TMCEL* Mobile Telecommunications Network Modernisation, Mozambique
- Expansion of *Equity Afia* Medical Centre Network, Kenya

## *The Benefits of Trilateral Cooperation*

Trilateral cooperation is explained here within the African context. It essentially involves three partners. A lead company seeking to access a cross-border project or business opportunity in an African market is likely to have a partner or local representative in that market. This is especially probable given that African governments adhere strictly to local beneficiation and often insist on local partnerships for outside companies wishing to trade or invest in their domains. Apart from formal obligations, it makes practical business sense for the lead company to have a partner to assist with dealing with local legislation, business practice norms, key contacts and the general business environment and conditions prevailing in the target market.

The third role player could be another company or business entity from a third country. Why can it be a good idea to introduce this third party in the venture? What can it bring to the party?

The company initiating the venture and its in-market partner could consider a third party from a country which has the products and sector knowledge required to ensure the success of the venture. Products and knowledge that the lead company may not possess. Generally speaking, countries have core competencies. For example, French companies have considerable knowledge and experience of water and sanitation projects in Africa. There are a number of Austrian manufacturers of high-tech medical equipment who export to the continent. The Danes have a strong domestic dairy industry and the Israelis are strong in a number of sectors including agri-industry and communications technologies. Incorporation of the technical knowledge and experience of these third parties into the venture can increase chances of success.

Another reason for their participation can be knowledge of the target markets from historical presence and bilateral relations between their countries and the relevant African country. Companies from the former colonial powers are often particularly active in and knowledgeable of the countries they historically administered. French companies such as the logistics company, *Bouygues* has a long-standing presence and strong operations in the Francophone countries of West and Central Africa. Portuguese contractors such as *Mota Engil* are engaged in major projects in Angola and Mozambique. Belgian banks and financial

agencies have a sound knowledge of the formal and informal business conditions in the DR Congo.

Apart from the former colonial countries, there are relative newcomers who have quickly established a sound presence in specific African markets. Moroccan companies are accessing projects in Côte d'Ivoire. Turkish companies are strongly supported by their government in developing strong business networks in numerous African countries. Even New Zealand with its long experience of geothermal energy has established a presence in Ethiopia where a strong geothermal resource and potential exists.

A third reason for a third party relates to finance. Developed countries have important financial instruments with strong African involvement including national development finance institutions, export credit agencies and specialised fund managers. These instruments are used by companies from the particular country to enhance and secure their operations in the recipient African markets. Germany is a good example with its *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)* providing financial support to government agencies mainly for infrastructure projects, the *Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG)* which funds commercial projects for example in industry, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* provides mainly technical assistance, and *Euler Hermes*, the German export credit agency which provides risk mitigation services to German companies in markets in Africa and other developing regions.

These financial instruments can be brought in to add finance, technical assistance and risk mitigation to further enhance the chance of success for the venture. The lead company can also utilise the services of its own financial instruments. In the development finance world, these institutions are well linked to each other and often co-finance ventures.

South African companies have a number of advantages in venturing into the rest of the continent. A good number of South African have long and sound experience of working in the southern African region and a few have operated in a wider area of the continent. The country also has core competencies such as agri-industries and the transport sector. There is some degree of Africa-specific know-how in the country.

South Africa has the advantages of proximity to southern and some east African markets and European, Asian and American companies venturing into Africa often cite this as well as the country's relatively good infrastructure as reasons for establishing a presence there to operate into the region. South Africa is further blessed with other benefits such as African identity which brings the trade advantages of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It is also a regional member of the *African Development Bank (AfDB)* and has access to funding from that important institution.

South Africa also has competent and active financial instruments that its companies can draw on: the *Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)* the *Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)* and

the *Export Credit Insurance Corporation (ECIC)*.

Over the years, *Africa House* has been approached by companies and institutions from Europe, Asia, the Americas and elsewhere seeking appropriate South African partners for operations in South Africa as well as in the region. We also collaborate strongly with the business promotion organisations from several of these countries including Australia, Ireland and Austria.

Trilateral operations are being undertaken in Africa not always as an intentional strategy. There is a need to make the concept and its potential win-win-win benefits more apparent and better understood in the interests of all three parties involved.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*"He (President Ramaphosa) felt that we have not devoted sufficient attention to countries in the West African region. So he planned the set of visits as part of reenergising the partnerships already there. So this is to strengthen, consolidate and identify opportunities for economic development."*

Dr Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation on President Ramaphosa's recent official visits to Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal.

*Editor's Note: South Africa's position in West Africa has always been tenuous at best and certainly does not position the country as a key exporter to the region: our share of global exports to the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) countries peaked in 2010 at 1,56% of the global total and has slipped steadily to just over 1% in 2020. In value terms, our exports to ECOWAS peaked at almost US\$ 2 billion in 2012, but have slipped consistently to just US\$ 1,3 billion in 2020. This is in a market averaging imports of US\$ 126 billion over the last three years. Put another way, South Africa exports more than twice the value of goods to eSwatini (population one million) than it does to Nigeria (population 200 million).*

*"South Africa can no longer afford own goals – our neighbouring countries are outmanoeuvring us and positioning themselves to be competitive and attract investment to grow their jobs, capabilities and supply chain."*

Nthato Minyuku, Chairperson, South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA).

## AFRICA & THE WORLD

Estimates of **AFRICA'S OIL OUTPUT** vary between 8% and 9,6% of annual global production. In 2020, about 330 million metric tons of oil was produced by the continent. In 2021, total crude oil resources in Africa stood at approximately 125 billion barrels.



## NEW SUBSCRIBERS



[The Agricultural and Industrial Marketing Company](#) seeks to design practical and efficient project design and marketing solutions, including farming optimization systems for its clients, particularly in the fields of industry, aquaculture and agriculture, with a particular flair for marketing activities in Africa, China and the Middle East. We also have a passion to develop people.

## PROJECT-RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS AND/OR ACTIVITIES OF AFRICA HOUSE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS, ASSOCIATES AND CONTACTS

The South African engineering consultancy, [ZUTARI](#) has listed the following projects in Africa (outside South Africa) in which it has been involved:

- Calueque Dam (Angola)
- Kazangula Sanitation Project (Botswana)
- Maguga Dam (eSwatini)
- Kashimbila Dam (Nigeria)
- Mizingani Seafront (Zanzibar, Tanzania)
- Nova Vida Housing Development – Phase 2 (Angola)
- International Convention Centre (eSwatini)
- New Bugesera Airport (Rwanda)
- Aga Khan Hospital (Uganda)
- Walvis Bay and Lüderitz Port Upgrades (Namibia)
- Lusaka Bulk Fuel Terminal (Zambia)
- Mbarara Brewery (Uganda).

## PROJECTS

*Africa House subscribers should note that the projects listed below in this publication are a selection from our Project Database. Templates on many more projects can be found on the*

**Ventures Onsite Project Platform.**

<https://africahouse.venturesonsite.com/login>

*Africa House subscribers are welcome to contact **Keagan** on Johannesburg 27 11 7285878 or e-mail: [keagan@africainfo.co.za](mailto:keagan@africainfo.co.za) for templates/further details/contacts pertaining to specific projects listed below.*

# Projects & Opportunities



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## PROJECT OF THE MONTH

The development of the [KRIBI INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL CITY](#) on Cameroon's north coast is receiving further impetus from the strong performance of the Kribi deep water port. The *Port Autonome de Kribi (PAK)* reports a 114% year-on-year increase in container traffic in 2021. The industrial and residential complex is being developed over an area of 260 square kilometres. The residential section could be housing up to 300 000 people.

*Editor's Note: Africa House has previously undertaken a business mission to Kribi and is able to supply Africa House subscribers with further background information on developments there.*

## AGRICULTURE



### REGIONAL

The East African Community (EAC) has announced a programme for the doubling of **FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORTS** to US\$ 900 million over the next eight years. The objective is to increase the area under fruit production by 5% to 10 million hectares and the area under vegetable production also by 5% to 45 million hectares. The announcement was made within the context of the 2021-2031 Strategic Plan.

### CAMEROON

The local company, *Belle Folie SA* has concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development and will be investing 52 billion CFA (about US\$ 90 million) in a new **AGRI-INDUSTRIAL PARK** to be constructed in the country's West Region. The park will cover an area of 113 hectares in the areas of Nde, Badounga and Bagoua. It will specialise in poultry and aquaculture as will produce fertilizer. A soya bean refinery is included. Construction will begin in 2023.

### COTE D'IVOIRE

The Italian company, *SB Inpienti* will be building a modern **POULTRY SLAUGHTER HOUSE** in the village of Bonn in the Dabou area on the eastern outskirts of Abidjan. The slaughter house will be run by the *Songon Poultry Abattoir Company (Société d'Abattage Avicole de Songon)*. The cost is estimated at 18 billion CFA (about US\$ 31 million.) The facility will be able to process 2 000 chickens per hour. The Italian export credit agency, *SACE* as well as the Côte d'Ivoire Investment Promotion Centre (CEPIC).

### UGANDA

The Uganda Vinci Coffee Company will be constructing a **COFFEE PROCESSING PLANT** on a 27 acre allocated site in the Namanve Industrial and Business Park in Kampala. The plant will initially process 27 000 tons of coffee per annum ramping up to 60 000 tons. Finance is currently being raised and final approvals obtained and construction should commence in about a year.



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## HEALTH



### KENYA

The medical franchise of the Equity Group Foundation (EGF) of Kenya, *Equity Afia* is expanding its network of **MEDICAL CENTRES** in the country. It has opened four new centres in Nairobi at Ruai, Kariobanga, Lavington and Umoja as well as a centre in Kerugoya in Kirinyaga county and another in Nanyuki in Laikipia county. The centres supply primary, emergency and specialised care services. The centres are largely staffed by medical specialists coming through the *Equity Leaders Programme*.

### MOZAMBIQUE

The *Lin Group* has recently inaugurated the **LIN MEDICARE CENTRE** in Maputo city. The facility has 16 beds, outpatient consulting services, and operations room, laboratories and an ambulance service. It will specialise inter alia in internal medicine and orthopaedics. The objective is to provide affordable quality healthcare to the less affluent.

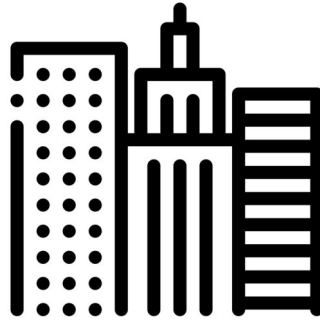
### UGANDA

The project for the construction of the 240-bed **INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISED HOSPITAL** in the Namanve Industrial and Business Park in Kampala has reportedly stalled. In March 2019, the government approved a request by the Ministry of Finance for the issue of promissory notes to raise the capital required. However, the authorities have since terminated the contract of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), *Finasi/Roko Construction* as the schedule was not maintained. The hospital was to be built over a two-year period on a 32 hectare site. It would include 54 oncology beds, 54 surgery beds, 8 ICU beds and 11 operating theatres. The project is being promoted by the Italian businesswoman, *Enrica Pinetti* of the Vinci Group.



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## HOTELS/COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY



### GHANA

The Ministry of Works and Housing has announced that it will be undertaking a major **HOUSING PROGRAMME** in 2022. The objective is to build some 6 500 homes for public servants across the country on a rental basis. The ministry has appealed to financial institutions to support the programme with mortgage schemes and personal loans. The programme falls under the National District Housing Scheme.

### MOZAMBIQUE

The five star [BANYAN TREE ILHA CALDEIRA RESORT](#) is currently being developed by *Banyan Tree Holdings* of Singapore on a previously uninhabited island situated 11 kilometres off the coast in the marine reserve of Mozambique's Primeiras and Segundas archipelago. It will comprise forty ocean-facing pool villas. The project includes solar heating for all units as well as a desalination plant for water supply. The resort is scheduled to open in December 2022.

Three tourism lodges and support tourism infrastructure are being developed in the new **MAPUTO NATIONAL PARK** in the far south of Mozambique. The 1 700 square kilometre park was recently established with the merging of the Maputo Special Reserve and the Ponto do Ouro Marine Reserve. The lodges and infrastructure are scheduled for completion by the end of 2022. The new park development is being supported by the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, the *National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC)* and the *Peace Parks Foundation*.

### SOUTH AFRICA

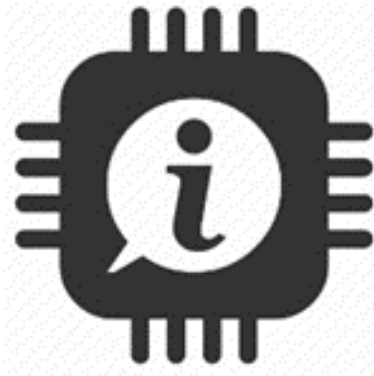
The Johannesburg-based fund management company, *Vantage Capital* has raised some US\$ 28 million towards the development of the **SEATON ESTATE RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX**. The complex of up-market homes will be developed over 411 hectares in the Sheffield Beach area of northern KwaZulu-Natal Province. The project is being implemented in phases over seven years.



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## ICT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS



### MOZAMBIQUE

The state telecommunications company, *TMCEL* has begun the second phase of its [MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK MODERNISATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAMME](#). The Programme will be rolled out across the country beginning with Maputo Province. New 2G and 3G equipment will be installed and 4G and 5 G extended. Technical support will be supplied by *Ericsson*. The first phase was undertaken in 2019. *TMCEL* is a fusion of the former *Telecommunicacoes de Mocambique (TDM)* and *Mocambique Cellular (Mcel)*.

### NIGERIA

The *Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)* has embarked on a programme for the full [DIGITALISATION OF OLD TRANSMISSION SUBSTATIONS](#) especially in the Port Harcourt area. The contractors will supply, install, configure, test and commission the substation automation systems. The programme will improve connectivity with the proposed *TCN* system and assist with grid management.

### SOUTH AFRICA

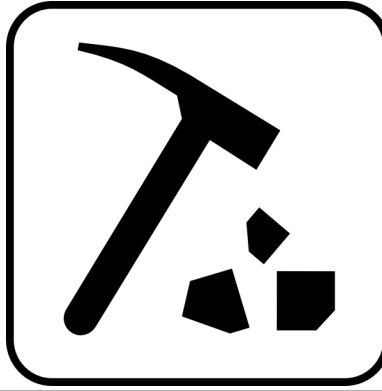
The Swiss-based global cyber security and Cloud-based data storage company, *Acronis* has announced that it will be opening a new **DATA CENTRE** in Johannesburg. The company is implementing a programme for the setting up of 111 such centres throughout the world. It will be launching a data centre in Kenya before the end of 2022.

*Google* will be deploying its [SUBSEA FIBRE OPTIC CABLE](#) service to South Africa through its affiliate, *Equiano* by June 2022. *Equiano* is owned by *Google*. The landing of the *Equiano* cable from Portugal will be at Melkbosstrand, north of Cape Town at the landing station of *Openserve/Telkom*. The development will reduce the costs and improve the connectivity of internet broadband for South African consumers.



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## MINING



### MADAGASCAR

BlackEarth Minerals of Australia is fast-tracking the completion of a bankable feasibility study on its [MANIRY GRAPHITE PROJECT](#). The mine is situated 40 kilometres north of Ampanihy in southern Madagascar. The company has raised almost US\$ 5 million to cover the feasibility study and is busy with the finalisation of offtake agreements. The feasibility study should be completed by mid-2022.

### NAMIBIA

The first copper concentrate has been produced from the re-opened [KOMBAT COPPER MINE](#) in northern Namibia. Trigon Metals of Canada has acquired new equipment from Xinhai Minerals of China and refurbished old machinery at the mine. Full commercial production is expected from March 2022.

### SOUTH AFRICA

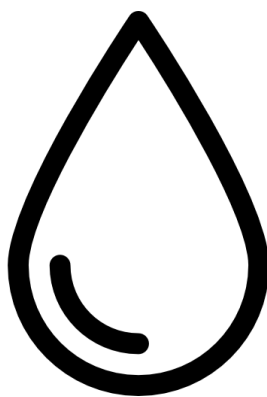
Galane Gold of Canada will be increasing its production of payable gold ounces at its [GALAXY GOLD MINE](#) near Barberton, Mpumalanga Province to between 24 000 and 27 000 ounces. The mine is an underground mining and tailings recovery operation producing gold concentrate. Commercial production commenced late in 2021.

### TANZANIA

The Australian government has approved a loan of up US\$ 40 million to EcoGraf Limited of Australia to support expansion of a battery anode material facility located at the company's [EPANKO GRAPHITE PROJECT](#) situated in the Mahenge province in south central Tanzania. The terms of the loan stipulate that the plant must produce an initial 5 000 tons per annum. The Epanko mine has a capacity of about 40 000 tons of graphite per annum.



## OIL & GAS



### KENYA

Tullow Oil will be investing an additional US\$ 5 million in the commercialisation of production from its [TURKANA OIL PROJECT](#) in northern Kenya. The company has already spent some US\$ 1 billion on its prospecting activities at the project. In December 2021, Tullow produced its project revised development plan. Indications are that the company is down-scaling its expenditure.

Eni of Italy has spudded or begun oil drilling operations on the Mlima-1 well situated in deep water off the Kenyan coast. The company began its offshore [LAMU BASIN OIL PROSPECTING](#) in December 2021. There are three exploration blocks in deep and ultra-deep waters.

### TANZANIA

The Tanzanian government has appointed the US legal firm, Baker Botts as advisor on the proposed [LINDI LNG PROJECT](#) situated on the country's far southern coast. A production and export terminal is envisaged. Planning of the project began in 2014 to take advantage of Tanzania's share of the Rovuma Basin gas deposit and it is hoped that the plans can be concluded through signings by April 2022. The total cost is estimated at US\$ 30 billion. A number of international energy companies are involved including BG of the UK, ExxonMobil, Shell, Ophir Energy, Pavilion Energy and Equinox Energy.

### ZIMBABWE

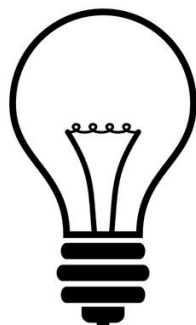
Invictus Energy of Australia has indicated that it has raised almost US\$ 6 million towards the cost of developing the [CABORA BASSA GAS PROJECT](#). The company has a concession for gas-condensate exploration over an area of 250 000 acres in the Cabora Bassa Basin in northern Zimbabwe. One of the investors is Mangwana Opportunities which groups Zimbabwean institutional investors. The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) of Zimbabwe previously approved the environmental management plan for the project.



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## POWER



### BOTSWANA

The Botswana Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy has announced that Botswana will be building a 200 MW [SOLAR POWER PLANT](#) which will be its largest solar plant. It is seeking companies to build and operate the plant. The objective is to complete construction by 2027. The *[Botswana Power Corporation \(BPC\)](#)* will purchase the power produced. The project falls under the national Integrated Resource Plan that favours renewable energies.

### GABON

An affiliate of *Al Nowais Investments* of the United Arab Emirates, *Amea Power* will be building a 50 MW [SOLAR POWER PLANT](#) in Oyem in the Woleu-Ntem Province in northern Gabon. An agreement was reached with the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning. The cost was not reported. The country has embarked upon a 'Zero Diesel' Programme.

### MOZAMBIQUE

*Great Lakes Energy (GLE)* of the USA has concluded a concession agreement with the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy for the construction of the 250 MW [NACALA LNG POWER PLANT](#) in Nampula Province, northern Mozambique. The company will design, build and operate the plant. The liquefied natural gas (LNG) will be supplied by LNG carrier from the Rovuma Basin. The total investment is estimated at US\$ 400 million. The project will be implemented in three phases and completion is scheduled for 24 months.

### RWANDA

*TotalEnergies* and the *Rwanda Development Board (RDB)* have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a [RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMME](#) in Rwanda. The agreement includes the installation of electric charging stations in Kigali for electric cars and motor cycles, the supply of energy products and power storage solutions and specialised training programmes.



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## TRANSPORT



### CAMEROON

The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* has approved a further loan of US\$ 48 million to the Cameroon government through its *Ministry of Transport* to complete the 358 kilometre [RING ROAD](#). The road will link six divisions and main centres of the north-west of the country to several border points with Nigeria. The road is scheduled for opening in 2024. The *AfDB* began support for the project in 2018. The total cost is about US\$ 260 million. The road will greatly facilitate trade between Cameroon and Nigeria.

### KENYA

The *Kenya Pensions Funds Investment Corporation (KEPFIC)* is looking to invest in the construction of the 143 kilometre [WAJIR-MARANDERA ROAD](#) in northern Kenya. *KEPFIC* comprises 24 retirement schemes and was established in 2020. The cost of the road is estimated at US\$ 188,8 million. The project falls under the Kenya treasury's Road Annuity Programme.

### SENEGAL

The government of Senegal has requested the *African Development Bank (AfDB)* to contribute towards the unfinalised cost of the **PROGRAMME TO OPEN UP AGRICULTURAL AND MINING AREAS (PDZAM)**. The programme is for the rehabilitation of about 785 kilometres of road. The work will be divided into phases and phase 1 concerns the rehabilitation of 482 kilometres. Feeder roads and weighing stations will be included.

### TANZANIA

The Turkish construction group, *Yapi Merkezi* has signed a design-build agreement with the Tanzanian government for the construction of the 368 kilometre third phase of the [DAR ES SALAAM-MWANZA RAIL LINE](#). The duration of the project will be four years and the cost is estimated at US\$ 1,9 billion. An agreement for the construction of the 167 kilometre fourth phase is expected soon. The 1 211 kilometre line will connect Dar es Salaam to the Lake Victoria port town of Mwanza.



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## WATER & SANITATION



### GABON

The [INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION TO GREATER LIBREVILLE \(PIAEPAL\)](#) is progressing. One of the programme contractors, *Condurill* has nearly completed supply to the Alénakiri district. The programme includes the construction or rehabilitation of water towers and the laying of water pipe networks in the Owendo, Ntoun, Akanda and Libreville urban areas. The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* has contributed 75 billion CFA or about US\$ 129 million towards the programme.

### KENYA

The [Ministry of Water and Sanitation and Irrigation](#) has announced the abandonment of exploration at the **LOTIKIPI AQUIFER** in Turkana County, northern Kenya. The dominant reasons are the high salinity levels of the 250 billion cubic metres resource and the major cost of desalination. The project is therefore deemed to be economically unviable. In 2019, Turkana County concluded an agreement with *Almar Water* of Saudi Arabia for a desalination plant but this project fell through. The authorities had earmarked 5 000 acres in the region for irrigation.

### SOUTH AFRICA

The [Department of Water and Sanitation \(DWS\)](#) has announced that phase one of the long-awaited **MZIMVUBU WATER SUPPLY PROJECT** in the Tsolo area of the Eastern Cape Province is underway. Three dams will be constructed: Ntabelanga, Laleni and Mbokazi to supply water to three rural districts. The project includes a tunnel and power house, water treatment works, flow gauge stations and bulk water infrastructure. The cost is estimated at R15 billion or about US\$ 994 million. . The project was referred to as a priority project by President *Ramaphosa* in his recent State of the Nation (SONA) address.



## WHISPERINGS - FOOTNOTES



- The governments of Uganda and Tanzania with *TotalEnergies* of France and the *China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC)* have taken the final investment decision (FID) on the **EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE (EACOP) PROJECT**. Crude oil from Lake Albert in Uganda will be transported by heated pipeline to the port of Tanga in Tanzania. An *Africa House* partner based in Uganda has expressed the view that first oil will be in 2025.

- The Ugandan authorities have indicated that a final investment decision (FID) on the **HOIMA OIL REFINERY** could be taken by the end of 2022. The main role player in this project is *General Electric (GE)*.
- *Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT)* has reported its lowest **COAL EXPORTS** from the port in 25 years. The company announced 2021 exports of 58,72 million tons from the 70,2 million tons registered in 2020. The main reasons given for this fall were vandalism and theft as well as operational issues such as inadequate locomotive availability negatively affecting the supporting rail system run by *Transnet Freight Rail (TFR)*.
- **OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN NAMIBIA** is receiving increasing attention from industry specialists and observers. The recent announcement by *Shell* on a "significant" amount of oil and gas from its offshore Graff-1 well has led to increased interest and the possibility of a 'new oil country'.
- **NIGERIA** is losing its military status and general hegemony in the West African region as it battles internal conflicts especially in its troubled peripheral regions. The Jihadi groups active in the Sahel region have a spill-over effect in the unruly north-west with the kidnapping of school girls and other calamities. Pirates are active in the territorial waters and there is still resistance in the Niger Delta area. Nigeria has virtually looked on as France has become a leading force in the Sahel but given opposition in France to its military role there, the duration of their presence is uncertain.
- **SOUTH AFRICA-BASED TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES** are on a strong drive to grow their businesses in the rest of the continent. Two examples are *Smile Telecoms* and *4Sight*. The latter will soon be opening an office in Namibia.
- The government has predicted a **GROWTH RATE FOR ZIMBABWE** in 2022 of 5,5%. This is somewhat tenuous in the longer term given that the optimism is largely based on the current high international mineral prices and the good recent rainfall. Mining and agricultural output revenues are unpredictable for the coming years.
- The **PORT OF MAPUTO** has reportedly set a new record for cargo handling with 22,2 million tons processed in 2021. This represents an increase of 21% over the previous year. Southern African ports outside of South Africa could be growing in activity. Durban port is averaging 31,4 million tons per annum which would indicate that Maputo is gaining ground!
- The *Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)* is developing a programme to attract doctors, nurses and scientific specialists in the **AFRICAN HEALTH SECTOR DIASPORA** back to Africa on a supportive rotation basis. Nigeria has 72 000 registered doctors but only 35 000 are currently practising in-country.
- There is a need for **MODERN ABATTOIRS** in Côte d'Ivoire. The country produced some 318 000 tons of meat in 2020 and demand is growing. However, it has a relatively small cattle industry in the far north and most cattle brought in for slaughter is from Burkina Faso. The standard of most existing abattoirs does not permit sufficient supply of quality meat for the higher ends of the consumer market.

Additional Whisperings are emailed during the third week of every month.

You are also able to download them on our website [here](#)

## WEBSITES



The *International Trade Administration* of the USA publishes **COUNTRY COMMERCIAL GUIDES** on its website: [www.trade.gov](http://www.trade.gov)

Details of the current **WORLD FOOD SITUATION** can be found by accessing the *Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)* Food Price Index on [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## SPOTLIGHT ON AID AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS, FUNDS & SELECTED RELATED ORGANISATIONS

The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* will be setting up a **PUBLIC-PRIVATE-PARTNERSHIP (PPP) DEVELOPMENT FUND**. This was announced following board approval of the bank's Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) Strategic Framework.

The Australian government through its *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, has established a Australian Dollar 2 billion (US\$ 1,43 billion) **CRITICAL MINERALS FUND**. The fund supports Australian mining companies active in developing countries with the development of local in-country manufacturing and supply centres to meet future demand from the Australian economy. An example is the in-situ supply of battery anode material from graphite mines.

A group of prominent technology leaders including the founders of *Skype* and *Flutterwave* have initiated a **TECHNOLOGY VENTURE CAPITAL FUND** to support future fast-growing technology companies in Africa.

The *DIASPORA AFRICA FORUM (DAF)* has officially launched a new flag for the 'Sixth Region of Africa'. The African Diaspora and its various affiliate organisations are recognised by the *African Union (AU)* as well as a wide range of funders including the *African Development Bank (AfDB)* and the *European Union (EU)*. Contributions from the African Diaspora are particularly useful for national poverty reduction programmes.

The *GABON SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND (FGIS)* has been admitted as a member of the *International Forum for Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSFWF)*.

The South African company, *IMPERIAL LOGISTICS* is reportedly seeking to acquire 49% of *Ascendis Pharma* also of South Africa to strengthen its capabilities in the health sector.

South Africa's *EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (ECIC)* is now entering the short term cover space.

*Editor's Note: There have been a number of changes to ECIC's terms and Africa House subscribers are advised to appraise themselves of these through direct contact with the organisation.*

The *DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DBSA)* disburses R13 billion to R14 billion (about US\$ 857,5 million to US\$ 924 million) per annum in the infrastructure and social sectors mainly in debt and using the US Dollar, the Euro and the Rand as approved currencies. Some 66% of the projects financed are in South Africa and 34% in the rest of the continent. The bank's implementation orientation is the use of programme offices such as that for Independent Power Producers (IPP's). It has increased the sectors covered and was involved for example in the financing of two private hospitals in the continent. It has an annual allocation for the funding of feasibility studies of R150 million to R200 million (about US\$ 9,9 million to US\$ 13,2 million).

*Proparco* of France is providing support of 2,3 million Euros (about US\$ 2,6 million) to the *AGA KHAN FOUNDATION HOSPITALS IN EAST AFRICA*. The funds will be used mainly for the provision of oxygen and intensive care facilities to the hospitals in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Dar es Salam as well as to 94 medical centres in Kenya and Tanzania.

## TRAVEL NOTES



**ZIMBABWE** has opened its land borders to all travellers provided they are fully vaccinated and possess valid Covid tests not older than 48 hours.

*Editor's Note: The following statement from the Botswana authorities summarises the revised requirements for **TRAVEL TO BOTSWANA**:*

"If one has no proof of being fully vaccinated, is not willing to be vaccinated at the port of entry, has no 72 hour negative PCR test result and is not willing to be tested at own cost, they will not be allowed entry into Botswana, if they are foreigners. If they are citizens, they will be liable to a fine of P 5 000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both."

There is a **NEW ELECTRONIC TEMPORARY VEHICLE IMPORT SYSTEM IN MOZAMBIQUE**. Travellers report teething problems with Mozambican officials making mistakes in capturing vehicle data. This can cause problems for the traveller if stopped at road blocks. Travellers should check that the details of vehicles and trailers are accurately captured by Mozambican officials at land border crossings.

*The following is a travel account by an Africa House associate who visited **MOZAMBIQUE** in early January 2022 using the Lebombo/Ressano Garcia border post:*

On arrival at the Lebombo post (South Africa), a PCR test less than 72 hours old is required. The test must be registered and recorded at the Department of Health station at the border post.

At the Ressano Garcia post (Mozambique), proof of vehicle third party insurance must be supplied or obtained (this can be purchased prior to departure). The cost of the insurance at the border post is around R280. All relevant documentation including printed copies of the PCR test results must be handed in with the passport. (Ensure that sufficient Rands in cash are at hand.)

On return at Ressano Garcia, ensure that the PCR test has not expired. Validity is 14 days.

On return at Lebombo, the South African authorities will administer an antigen rapid Covid test. This takes about 15 minutes.

Frequent road blocks will be encountered while driving in Mozambique. Travellers are advised to remain calm, patient and respectful. On the odd occasion, some form of bribe may be requested by officials at the road blocks and these requests should be politely turned down.

*South African Airways (SAA)* will be resuming **FLIGHTS TO MAURITIUS** from March 2022.

**PCR TESTS** for travellers can be done for example at *Ampath*, Life Fourways Hospital, Johannesburg. The cost is R500. If the traveller arrives early at around 8 am, the PCR test result can be supplied to them by the evening of the same day. Otherwise, the delay is 24 hours.

## FACT OF THE MONTH

According to *Forbes Magazine*, the wealth of the eighteen richest Africans has reached its highest level since 2014. The accumulated fortunes of these billionaires amount to US\$ 84,9 billion which represents an increase of 15% over the last twelve months. South Africa has five of the wealthiest, Egypt also has five, Nigeria has three and Morocco has two. The top three are *Ali Dangote*, *Johan Rupert* and *Nicky Oppenheimer*.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES OF AFRICA HOUSE

*Africa House* hosted a Africa 2022 hybrid event on 09 February 2022.

Guest speakers and panellists included:

- Mohan Vivekanandan: Group Executive: Origination & Client Coverage, **Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)**
- Dr Tapiwa Dube: Business Development Manager, **IDC SA**
- Claire Barclay: Partner, **Pinsent Masons**
- Paul Eardley-Taylor: Oil & Gas Coverage: Southern Africa, **Standard Bank**
- John Rocha: Chief Director: Trade Invest Africa, **The DTI**
- Deon Robinson: Managing Director, **WBHO**
- Jose Miranda: Grow Africa Leader, **Zutari (Pty) Ltd**
- Paul Mojalefa: Deal Originator, Business Development, **ECIC**

*Roelof van Tonder* hosted a hybrid Agriculture Focus Group on 17 February 2022.

Guest speakers included:

- Kobus Hurter, **Laeveld Agrochem**
- Justy Range, **Freshmark Systems**

*Duncan Bonnett* hosted a hybrid Tanzania Country Focus Group on 23 February 2022.

Guest speakers included:

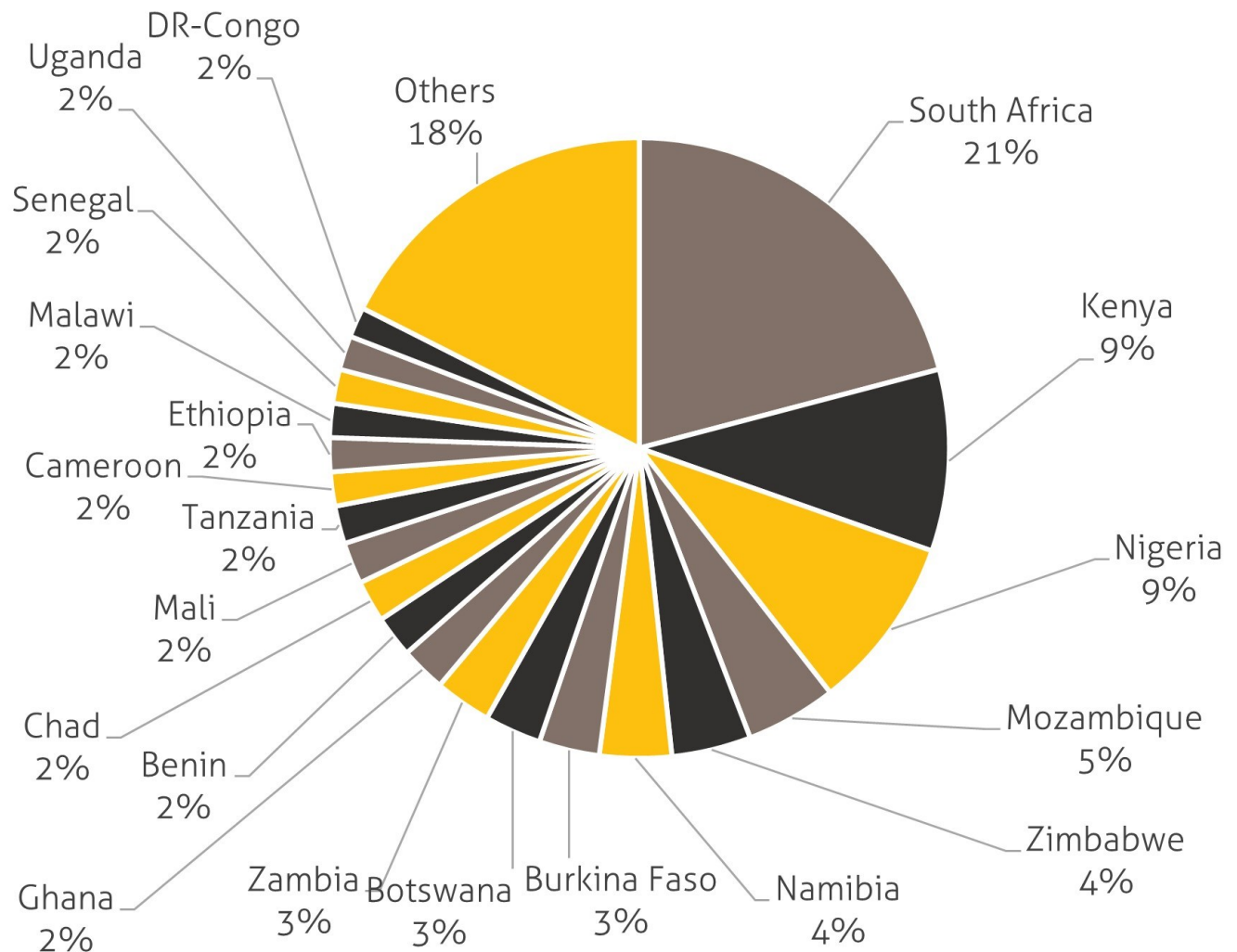
- John Rogers: Regional Director for East Africa, **Turner & Townsend**
- Dr. Alfred Msemu: Executive, **Aleka Capital**
- Moses Nkanda: Director, **Mnazi Bay Consulting Ltd**





## CHART OF THE MONTH

Percentage of Renewable Projects by Country



Source: Africa House Project Platform

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## COMMODITIES OF AFRICA

TYPE OF COMMODITY	COMMODITY	UNITS	PRICE: January 2022	PRICE: February 2022	PRICE: March 2022
Agriculture	Cocoa	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	1.71	1.69	1.67
	Coffee	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	2.39	2.36	2.4
	Cotton	US\$ per Ounce (US\$/oz.)	1.16	1.25	1.22
	Rice	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	400.00	400.00	427.00
	Sugar	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	18.05	18.26	18.01
Base and Precious Metals	Cobalt	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	69,680.00	70,215.00	73,220.00
	Copper	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	9,691.85	9,678.00	9,919.00
	Gold	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	1,792.54	1,791.09	1,900.75
	Iron Ore	US\$ per Dry Metric ton (US\$/DMT)	126.21	130.81	141.76
	Platinum	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	958.00	1,015.50	1,063.00
Energy	Coal: Industrial	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	128.00	128.00	168.50
	Coal: Coking	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	195.00	227.65	239.00
	Gas: Natural Gas	US\$ per million British Thermal Units (USD/MMBtu)	4.15	4.92	4.62
	Oil: Crude Oil	US\$ per Barrel (US\$/bbl.)	81.99	85.94	96.61

Source: Various



*Africa House* is a research & consulting company based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Working exclusively in sub-Saharan Africa, we offer insight and access into the African trade and project environment through the provision of intelligence on projects and bespoke research on opportunities in markets.

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#### **Our Services:**

##### ***Africa House* provides:**

**Insights:** What is driving the continent and targeting regions of high opportunity going forward.

**Access:** To the world's fastest growing markets through a team that has worked in 30 countries across the continent over a period spanning 30 years

**Projects:** On-going research and intelligence on greenfield and brownfield projects to a dedicated subscriber base

**Trade:** Market and partner identification, export strategy development and commercial feasibility

#### **INDEMNITY**

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