REGIONAL

The 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11) in Mombasa from 16 to 18 June Hosted by Kenya Brought Together More Than 30 Heads of State and Government

Kenya made history by hosting the 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11) in Mombasa from 16 to 18 June 2026, marking the first-time conference was held on African soil. Guided by the theme "Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future", the conference brought together world leaders, investors, civil society organisations, and coastal communities around six thematic pillars: ocean-climate nexus, marine pollution, marine protected areas, maritime security, sustainable blue economy, and sustainable fisheries. The conference also introduced a real-time Commitments Tracker to strengthen the accountability of pledges made across successive editions of the forum.

Kenya and the Region Drive Concrete Commitments Across All Six Action Areas

Kenya led the bulk of regional commitments: an ocean-climate research centre by 2027 (150M USD), restoration of 61,000 hectares of mangroves and 39,000 hectares of seagrass by 2030, and a 100 M USD coastal resilience programme. A transboundary MPA of at least 200 km² will be established with Tanzania in Kwale-Tanga by 2028. The sustainable blue economy pillar attracted the most pledges, totalling 2.86 Bn USD, including 1Bn USD from the World Bank over two years. On fisheries, the Environmental Justice Foundation launched the Mombasa Declaration on Fisheries Transparency, endorsed by over 60 organisations and ten coastal states. The G7 Alliance for MPA Management, negotiated in April 2026, was also officially launched by the French ministry of the Sea and Fisheries, with all G7 members and Kenyan and Senegalese representatives attending.

Rail in East Africa: our new economic newsletter

The SER Nairobi published an economic newsletter on rail transport across East Africa and the Indian Ocean this month. The edition covers nine countries covered with maps, data and a regional synthesis. You can find the letter here.

East Africa's Hydropower Surges as Region Diversifies Energy Mix

The Energy Institute's Statistical Review of World Energy 2026, released June 30, found that eastern Africa recorded some of the fastest renewable energy growth rates globally last year. Hydroelectric generation in the sub-region rose 18.2% year-on-year to reach 99TWh, the largest increase recorded anywhere outside China, even as overall energy consumption remains heavily reliant on traditional sources and grid constraints continue to limit further integration of solar and wind.

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

99TWh

This is the total of hydroelectric generation in the sub-region in one year.

See more on the left

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

KENYA/ETHIOPIA

KENYA POWER TO DOUBLE ELECTRICITY IMPORTS FROM ETHIOPIA TO 400 MW BY END-2026

Kenya Power has announced it will double its electricity imports from Ethiopia from 200 MW to 400 MW by December 2026, as domestic demand continues to rise driven by industrial expansion, urbanisation and the growth of electric mobility. The increase will transit through the 1,045 km 500 kV HVDC transmission line linking Wolayta-Sodo in Ethiopia to Suswa in Kenya, commissioned in 2022 and co-financed by the World Bank, the African Development Bank and Agence Française de Développement. Ethiopia has become Kenya's third-largest electricity source, accounting for 9.88% of Kenya Power's total supply. The cost of imports nearly tripled to KES 8.68 billion in the year ended July 2025, reflecting Kenya's growing reliance on Ethiopian hydropower to avert outages as spinning reserves fall below the internationally recommended threshold of 7-15%. The doubling of imports was contractually foreseen under the 25-year Power Purchase Agreement signed in 2022 between Kenya Power and Ethiopia Electric Power (EEP).

RWANDA

102.3 M USD TO NYABARONGO II HYDROPOWER PLANT IN 2026-2027

The Rwandan government has allocated USD 102.3 million to the Nyabarongo II hydropower plant for fiscal year 2026/27. Currently 70% complete, the project is on track to begin power generation by end-2027, according to Rwanda Energy Group (REG). The 43.5 MW facility on the Nyabarongo River will serve multiple purposes: electricity production, irrigation of over 20,000 hectares, water supply and downstream flood control. Financed under a February 2020 Rwanda-China agreement, the Export-Import Bank of China provided a USD 214 million concessional loan. Total project cost exceeds USD 345.6 million, covering USD 232.8 million in EPC works, USD 103.8 million in expropriations and USD 7.5 million in supervision, with USD 139.8 million disbursed to date. Contractor Sinohydro is building a dam 59 metres high and 363 metres long, with a reservoir capacity of 803 million cubic metres.

ETHIOPIA

25 M EUR INVESTMENT IN THE CORBETTI GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

London-based Taranis has signed a 25 M EUR investment agreement in the Corbetti geothermal project, which the European group PIDG (Private Infrastructure Development Group) has been developing since 2015. The firm, which also maintains an office in Paris, will take a stake through a convertible loan instrument. Corbetti represents Ethiopia's second major geothermal venture, following Tulu Moye, currently under construction by French group Meridiam, and sits squarely within the climate resilience and green economy agenda the Ethiopian government has pursued since 2011. The country's geological profile makes the bet a compelling one: surveys point to 10 GW of untapped geothermal potential running along the Great Rift Valley. The broader market backs that ambition, with global geothermal electricity revenues forecast to grow at 8.9% annually, climbing from 880 M EUR in 2025 to 2.07 Md EUR by 2034, positioning Corbetti as a well-timed entry into a fast-maturing sector.

BURUNDI

INAUGURATION OF THE MULEMBWE HYDROELECTRIC PLANT (17 MW)

On 29 June 2026, Burundi's Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye officially inaugurated the Mulembwe hydroelectric power plant (17 MW), completing a major energy programme alongside the Jiji plant (32.5 MW), inaugurated in June 2025. Together, the two run-of-river facilities reach a combined capacity of 49.5 MW and an annual output of 239 GWh, supplying power to 15,000 households, 7,000 businesses, and 1,700 industrial facilities. The programme was delivered through a partnership between the Burundian government, the African Development Bank Group, the European Investment Bank (EIB Global), the European Commission, and the World Bank Group — the latter framing the project within its Mission 300 electrification agenda. The EIB confirmed a broader commitment of 2 Bn EUR over two years to support renewable energy across Africa, half of which is earmarked for Mission 300-related projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

KENYA

KENYA POWER'S PROPOSED ELECTRICITY TARIFF HIKE WITHDRAWN BY GOVERNMENT

The Kenyan government withdrew Kenya Power's retail electricity tariff review application on June 3, 2026, blocking proposed base rate increases of 14% to 31.8% that were set to take effect from July 1, 2026 through June 2029. Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi cited the need to protect households, businesses and industries from cost escalation. The application, filed by KPLC on March 31, 2026, had proposed reducing the subsidized consumption threshold from 100 kWh/month to 30 kWh, effectively pushing most households into a higher tariff band, with ordinary domestic consumers facing a rate of KES 21.68 per kWh against the current KES 16.45. Any future tariff review will require a fresh application and full regulatory process under the Energy Act. The freeze covers only the base energy charge: monthly pass-through costs including the Fuel Energy Cost Charge, Foreign Exchange Fluctuation Adjustment and VAT remain active and reset monthly by EPRA.

KENYA

EU SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH EUR 70 MILLION INVESTMENT PACKAGE

On 8 June, European Commission Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen and Kenyan President William Ruto reinforced the EU-Kenya strategic partnership in Brussels, with the EU announcing a 70 M EUR package across five initiatives. The centrepiece is a 17 M EUR investment to modernise the Northern Corridor, East Africa's busiest trade route linking Mombasa to Kisangani in the DRC, through cold chain development, a modal shift from air to maritime freight, and streamlined trade procedures. A further 15 M EUR will extend Kenya's national fibre-optic network to underserved areas. Together, these measures aim to strengthen sustainable connectivity and deepen economic integration across the region.

SUSTAINABLE CITY

UGANDA

EUR 650 MILLION FOR MALABA-KAMPALA STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Uganda has secured EUR 650.75 million from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to support the construction of the 272-km Malaba–Kampala Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), a project valued at EUR 2.7 billion. Delayed since 2015 due to financing challenges, the project was initially awarded to China Harbour Engineering Company before being reassigned to Turkish contractor Yapi Merkezi. According to the Ugandan Ministry of Finance, export credit agencies are expected to cover 60% of the project cost, development finance institutions 25%, and sukuk issuances the remaining 15%, with Citibank acting as lead arranger. The railway aims to connect landlocked Uganda to Kenya's rail network and the Port of Mombasa, reducing the share of freight currently transported by road, which exceeds 90%. Once operational, the corridor could shorten cargo transit times between Mombasa and Kampala from five days to less than 24 hours and lower transport costs by up to 40%. In the longer term, Kenya and Uganda plan to extend the railway network towards Rwanda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to strengthen regional integration and trade in East and Central Africa.

KENYA

WORLD BANK-BACKED KUMIP TO MODERNIZE URBAN MOBILITY IN NAIROBI METROPOLITAN AREA

Kenya is advancing the Kenya Urban Mobility Improvement Project (KUMIP), a USD 1.7 billion program aimed at transforming mobility across the Nairobi Metropolitan Area. Supported by a USD 500 million commitment from the World Bank, the project will focus on upgrading the commuter rail network, beginning with the 57-km Nairobi Central–Thika corridor, and strengthening institutional capacity for green and resilient urban transport development. KUMIP includes the modernization and electrification readiness of commuter rail infrastructure, the acquisition of new rolling stock, improved station access and transit-oriented development around railway hubs. The project will also support integrated land-use planning and urban mobility reforms, with benefits extending to Nairobi and neighbouring counties including Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado and Murang'a. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to secondary cities such as Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret to develop integrated urban mobility plans, supporting Kenya's long-term transition towards more sustainable and efficient transport systems.

BURUNDI

LAUNCH OF A 83 M EUR PROJECT FOR ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER IN BUJUMBURA

On 17 June 2026, President Évariste Ndayishimiye laid the foundation stone of the Nyabugete pumping station in Bujumbura province, officially launching the PAEPA-Amazi Iwacu project. Financed to the tune of 74 M EUR by the World Bank and 9 M EUR by the Burundian government, the project aims to sustainably strengthen drinking water supply in Bujumbura. With a capacity of 120,000 m³ per day, the future station will become the second largest water production unit in the capital and will benefit more than 615,000 inhabitants. According to the African Development Bank, only 62.4% of Burundians currently have access to drinking water. This project is part of a broader momentum of investment in the sector, to which France contributes through two FASEP grants: the Graviwater water treatment demonstrator, inaugurated in November 2025 and enabling more than 300,000 people to access disinfected water through the Gravikit technology, and the technical studies conducted by Artelia for a drinking water supply project in Gitega, the investment for which, estimated at 50 M EUR, could be financed by the World Bank.

MADAGASACAR

AFD COMMITS 31 M EUR TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN ANTANANARIVO

On 19 June, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Malagasy government signed a financing agreement for the fourth phase of the Lalankely programme, worth 31 M EUR (26 M EUR in concessional loan and 5 M EUR in grant). The programme will be implemented across 17 peripheral municipalities and four districts of Antananarivo, targeting improvements in urban mobility, access to essential services and climate resilience. This commitment reflects a broader AFD financing package of 57 M EUR signed on the same date, which also covers public health and food security expenditure as well as the modernisation of Madagascar's judicial institutions. Lalankely IV builds on previous phases to address the structural challenges facing one of sub-Saharan Africa's fastest-growing capitals, where rapid and largely unplanned urbanisation has placed mounting pressure on infrastructure and basic service delivery.

REGIONAL

SMART CITIES: AFRICA GAINS GROUND, BUT GOVERNANCE REMAINS THE WEAK LINK

Nine African cities now feature in IMD Business School's 2026 Smart City Index, up from six in 2019. The list includes Rabat, Cairo, Cape Town, Algiers, Abuja, Lagos, Nairobi, Accra and Tunis. None has entered the global top 100 in seven editions of the ranking. Most African cities score higher on technology than on institutional structures. Yet structures remain the stronger predictor of overall performance. Rabat leads the continental table through a long-term strategy combining digital services with citizen participation. Abuja is the only African city to climb in 2026, rising two places through governance-led reforms. Nairobi ranks sixth in Africa despite hosting one of the continent's most dynamic tech ecosystems. Weak governance scores hold back its overall position. Kigali does not appear in the IMD ranking. It is still regularly cited as a reference for digital urban governance in Africa, combining e-government services with a clear regulatory framework. According to Jérôme Chenal, architect and urban planner at EPFL, smart urban models already exist across African cities in the way social groups organize themselves. Governments would benefit more from formalizing these local models than importing foreign ones.

See more on the report

SERVICE ÉCONOMIQUE REGIONAL - AMBASSADE DE FRANCE A NAIROBI
PEPONI ROAD - NAIROBI - KENYA - ✉ : nairobi@dgtresor.gouv.fr

REGIONAL

EAST AFRICA'S DIGITAL GROWTH SHIFTS TOWARD COMPUTE INFRASTRUCTURE

Digital growth in East Africa is moving from a narrative of connectivity to one cantered on compute capacity, that is processing power, networking and memory. Countries in the region must extend power and water infrastructure, build data centre facilities and expand high-bandwidth connectivity to support this shift.

The sector's growth is best understood through a hub-and-spoke model, with Kenya as the central hub connecting Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Kenya leads regional fintech and mobile money development, driven by M-Pesa's growth. This ecosystem has fuelled broader ICT expansion, with most Kenyans using mobile numbers primarily to access financial services.

Energy transmission constraints and water scarcity remain key challenges for data centre development. Infrastructure vandalism is an additional risk in Kenya, requiring investors to allocate resources to physical security. Investing in the region calls for balancing timing and scale carefully to avoid overbuilding capacity ahead of demand, particularly in smaller markets.

TENDERS

Ethiopia - World Bank

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR SUPERVISION OF THE AMIBARA EMBANKMENT WORKS ON THE AWASH RIVER

The Ministry of Water and Energy, under the Ethiopia Flood Management Project (E-FMP), invites eligible consulting firms to submit expressions of interest for supervision and contract administration services on the Amibara Right Bank Embankment construction, in two lots along the Awash River basin.

Deadline: July 17, 2026 – 4:00 pm (Addis Ababa time)

For more information

Uganda - World Bank

CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ASSESS IMPACT OF PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY (PUE) TECHNOLOGIES

UECCC invites eligible individual consultants to submit expressions of interest for an assessment of the impact of Productive Uses of Energy (PUE) technologies on beneficiary enterprises under the Electricity Access Scale-Up Project (EASP).

Deadline: July 23, 2026 –2:00 pm (Bujumbura time)

For more information

Kenya – World Bank

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTING SERVICES

Request for expressions of interest for consultancy services for a municipality-wide infrastructure needs assessment, feasibility studies, detailed engineering designs and preparation of procurement documents and environmental and social impact assessment instruments, under the Second Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP II) – Cluster 1, Coast and Eastern regions.

Deadline: July 28, 2026 – 10:00 am (local time)

For more information

Kenya – Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS 2026/2027

Tenders are invited for the supply of various goods, works and services under framework contracts for the financial year 2026/2027, covering provision of security services, company secretarial services, desludging of Nyahururu water sewage treatment ponds, supply and delivery of UPVC pipes, supply and delivery of bulk water meters, and supply and delivery of fuel, oil, lubricants and vehicle servicing.

Deadline: July 22, 2026 – 11:00 am (local time)

For more information

UPCOMING EVENTS

NAIROBI, 29TH – 31ST JULY 2026

13th Power and Energy Kenya and 11th Solar Africa-Kenya

The 13th edition of Power & Energy Kenya and the 11th edition of Solar Africa will take place on 29–31 July 2026 at the Carnivore Exhibition Grounds in Nairobi. Officially endorsed by Kenya's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, the two co-located exhibitions form East Africa's leading platform for energy innovation, bringing together exhibitors from over 27 countries.

Power & Energy Kenya covers power generation, transmission and distribution, smart grid technologies and electric mobility. Solar Africa focuses specifically on the solar industry, from panels and inverters to off-grid systems and storage solutions. Together, they are designed for utilities, developers, investors, policymakers and technology providers seeking to accelerate Africa's clean energy transition.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Learn more: Power and Energy and Solar Africa

WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL | KENYA

NAIROBI, 20TH – 22TH JULY 2026

World Energy Council Kenya: Powering Futures 2026 Conference – Nairobi

Co-hosted by the Kenya and South Africa Member Committees of the World Energy Council, the conference is aimed to provide a collaborative space for designing an actionable agenda that connects energy access and equity with industrial competitiveness and global stability. The focus will be on implementation, coordination, and system design, ensuring that ideas translate into real progress.

The conference in Nairobi will try to help establishing the foundation of a continental platform for renewable and hydrogen cooperation and inform Africa’s collective contribution to the World Energy Congress in Riyadh. It is a moment meant to shape solutions that elevate shared opportunity and expand the possibilities of a more secure and resilient global energy future.

Location: Nairobi

Learn more: World Energy Council Kenya

ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for expression of interest to host the global observances of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in 2027

UN-Habitat has launched a call for expressions of interest to host the global observances of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in 2027. Both events are observed annually as part of Urban October and bring together governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, the private sector, and communities to advance dialogue and action on sustainable urbanisation.

Countries or cities interested in hosting one or both observances have until 30 September 2026 to submit their applications. Proposals should demonstrate experience in hosting international events, provide examples of sustainable urbanisation initiatives, and outline proposed national activities linked to the observances.

Learn more : [UN-Habitat]

INFORMATION

We would like to highlight members'news and achievements in a dedicated section. If you would like to present your company or share your experience, please feel free to write to the following address:

nimrodfadhili.ambundo@dgtresor.gouv.fr

Don't hesitate to share with us upcoming events or any information that may interest Club members!

CONTACT

The French Club for Renewable Energies is an informal group bringing together French private and institutional actors to highlight French expertise on these themes and promote collaboration to offer an integrated development offer.

Follow us on our Linkedin and X accounts!

For more information or registration to the newsletter:

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