



May, 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## REGIONAL

### The Summit Co-Hosted by France and Kenya Brought Together More Than 30 Heads of State and Government

France and Kenya co-hosted the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi on May 11–12, 2026. On May 11, the business forum brought together more than 7,000 business leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors from France and across the African continent at the University of Nairobi. On May 12, the Summit gathered more than 30 Heads of State and Government, as well as presidents and CEOs of international organizations and major French and African companies.

The summit concluded with the adoption of the [Nairobi Declaration](#), whose outcomes are set to feed into the French G7 Presidency in Evian in June 2026.

#### French investments focused on energy transition, digital technology, and the blue economy

At the conclusion of the Summit, a total of EUR 23 billion in investments was announced across Africa, including EUR 14 billion from French companies and EUR 10.5 billion from African actors. French investment commitments were mainly concentrated in Energy transition (EUR 4.3 billion), Digital technology and artificial intelligence (EUR 3.8 billion), Blue economy (EUR 3.3 billion), Agriculture (EUR 1.0 billion), Health (EUR 942 million), Industrialization (EUR 300 million), Banking and financial services (EUR 250 million).

Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda also benefited from significant investments in energy, water, agriculture, and digital infrastructure projects led by French development actors and private companies.

Regional initiatives included agricultural insurance pilots, aviation safety systems modernization, pharmaceutical regulation support, and major energy infrastructure developments such as hydropower, geothermal, and oil & gas corridor projects.

### Africa CEO Forum 2026: Over USD 3 Billion in Investments and Commitments Announced

Rwanda hosted the Africa CEO Forum on May 14–15, 2026, organized by Jeune Afrique Media Group and co-hosted by the International Finance Corporation. Held under the theme *“Scale or Fail: Why Africa Must Embrace Shared Ownership”*, the event brought together 2,800 participants from 77 countries. During the forum, approximately USD 2 billion in investments were announced, alongside an additional USD 1 billion in financing commitments from the IFC, bringing total pledges to over USD 3 billion.

## NUMBER OF THE MONTH

**EUR 23 Billion**

This is the total of investment announcements during the Africa Forward Summit.

See more on the left



## RENEWABLE ENERGIES

### MADAGASCAR

#### USD 250 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

In the energy sector, the ASCENT Madagascar program (USD 250 million), approved on May 4, seeks to expand access to electricity and clean cooking solutions for more than 2.5 million people by 2030. Structured as a Program-for-Results operation, it links disbursements to independently verified outcomes. The project includes 200,000 new electricity connections, the deployment of off-grid solutions (mini-grids and solar systems), the hybridization of thermal power plants, and reforms aimed at restoring the financial viability of JIRAMA, the Madagascar's state-owned electricity and water utility.

### RWANDA

#### USD 300 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN POWER INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY ACCESS

On May 15, 2026, the African Development Bank, together with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Government of Rwanda, launched the second phase of the Results-Based Financing program for the energy sector (RBF II). The USD 300 million program will be financed through a USD 200 million loan from the African Development Bank and a USD 100 million loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, aiming to support universal access to reliable and affordable energy. RBF II includes the rehabilitation of four electrical substations and the construction of 3,855 km of medium- and low-voltage distribution lines. It is expected to connect 200,000 additional households and 850 businesses to the national grid, while 50,000 households will benefit from off-grid energy solutions. The initiative is part of the African Development Bank's broader energy portfolio in Rwanda, which also includes projects such as Ruzizi III and investments in transmission infrastructure and last-mile electricity connections.

### RWANDA

#### FEASIBILITY STUDY AGREEMENT ON HOLTEC'S SMR-300 REACTOR

On May 19, 2026, the Rwanda Atomic Energy Board (RAEB) and the U.S.-based company Holtec International signed an agreement to study the feasibility of deploying the SMR-300 small modular reactor in Rwanda. The agreement focuses on technical studies to assess whether the SMR-300 technology can meet the country's future electricity needs. It represents an early step in Rwanda's broader nuclear energy ambitions. This initiative follows recent progress in the national nuclear program, including confirmation by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Rwanda has entered Phase 2 of its development process, which involves institutional, legal, and regulatory preparations ahead of any construction decisions. On the same occasion, the United States and Rwanda also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation (NCMOU), reinforcing bilateral collaboration in peaceful nuclear energy development.

### DJIBOUTI

#### DJIBOUTI APPROVES NATIONAL ENERGY PACT (2026–2035)

Djibouti has approved its National Energy Pact (2026–2035) in partnership with the World Bank, under the "Mission 300" initiative led jointly by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The broader initiative aims to provide electricity access to 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. The strategy is designed to transform Djibouti's electricity sector in response to rising demand and persistent structural challenges. Around 30% of the population still lacks access to electricity, with significant disparities, particularly in rural areas. The pact is built around five main pillars: development of renewable energy infrastructure (with a target of 100% renewable generation capacity by 2035), regional energy integration, universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions, improved sector governance, and increased private sector participation. The total investment is estimated at USD 1.7 billion.



## SUSTAINABLE CITY

### BURUNDI

#### USD 5.9 MILLION TO EXPAND RURAL TELECOM COVERAGE

Burundi has signed a USD 5.9 million agreement between the Executive Secretariat for Information and Communication Technologies and public telecommunications operator ONATEL Burundi. The agreement is part of the Digital Economy Foundations Support Project, a USD 92 million initiative financed by the World Bank. The project includes the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure across 92 rural hills — the country's smallest administrative units — which currently lack 2G or 3G network coverage. The initiative is expected to benefit nearly 370,000 people, including users of schools and healthcare facilities. It aims to strengthen digital sovereignty and improve equitable access to connectivity throughout the country. According to the World Bank and the International Telecommunication Union, internet penetration in Burundi remains below regional averages, with rural areas particularly constrained by high infrastructure costs and limited commercial attractiveness for telecom operators.

### ETHIOPIA

#### THE COUNTRY SECURES A FAVORABLE RULING IN THE DISPUTE WITH YAPI MERKEZI

The arbitral tribunal of the London Court of International Arbitration has reportedly rejected the majority of the USD 979.9 million claim filed by Turkish company Yapi Merkezi against the Ethiopian Railway Corporation (ERC) over the Awash–Kombolcha–Woldia–Hara Gebeya railway project, which was suspended in 2021 due to the Tigray conflict. According to media reports, approximately USD 750 million of the claims were dismissed, and the tribunal ordered the contractor to repay a USD 29.1 million advance previously received from ERC. Ethiopia's Ministries of Transport and Logistics and Finance, which had initially been named in the proceedings, were also removed from the case, effectively eliminating the risk of direct state liability.

However, part of the claims was deemed admissible. PricewaterhouseCoopers, appointed by the tribunal, estimated the potential compensation amount at between USD 233.1 million and USD 278.9 million, with a 9% interest rate. A final ruling is still pending.

### ETHIOPIA

#### SAFARICOM ETHIOPIA BOOSTS REVENUE THROUGH MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES

Following the introduction in late 2024 of a regulation by the Ethiopian Communications Authority requiring telecom operators to apply cost-based pricing, the Ethiopian subsidiary of Safaricom Ethiopia recorded a 33.8% increase in revenue from internet access services during the last quarter of fiscal year 2025/2026. Losses linked to the company's market launch — which involved an initial investment of USD 3 billion, including USD 850 million for the operating license — declined by 41.2%. Meanwhile, total service revenues more than doubled to reach ETB 15.9 billion. Safaricom Ethiopia is now targeting financial break-even by 2027. Although some consumers have criticized the rapid increase in mobile internet package prices, data costs in Ethiopia remain among the lowest in Africa. Safaricom Ethiopia currently serves 10.4 million users, representing annual growth of 48.2%. Meanwhile, M-Pesa, Safaricom's mobile money platform, has reached 5.2 million active customers, up 119.4% year-on-year.

### MADAGASCAR

#### USD 200 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN FOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

In the transport sector, a multimodal project (USD 200 million), co-financed with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, approved on March 31, focuses on reducing logistics costs and strengthening climate resilience. It includes rehabilitation of the Antananarivo–Tamatave railway line, modernization of ports (Mahajanga, Toliara), the Canal des Pangalanes, and regional airports.



## TENDERS

<p><b>Tanzania and Uganda – AFD</b></p> <p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMPANIES OFFERING CLEAN COOKING SOLUTIONS</p> <p>Under the <i>Biomass Energy Africa</i> programme, AFD aims to identify a technical assistance to support a cohort of 5-8 companies commercializing clean cooking solutions in Tanzania and Uganda that have strong potential for commercial growth.</p> <p><b>Deadline: June 9, 2026 – 00 :00 (local time)</b></p> <p><a href="#">For more information (Tanzania)</a></p> <p><a href="#">For more information (Uganda)</a></p>	<p><b>Madagascar – AFD</b></p> <p>PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE, WORKS SUPERVISION AND MONITORING (PHASE I) FOR ALL SIX CITIES UNDER THE BALANCED CITIES SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – PADEVE 2.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Madagascar has received financing from the Agence Française de Développement for the implementation of the Balanced Cities Support and Development Program (PADEVE 2).</p> <p><b>Deadline: June 15, 2026 – 09:30 (local time)</b></p> <p><a href="#">For more information</a></p>
<p><b>Kenya – World Bank</b></p> <p>PROCUREMENT OF SINGLE PHASE PRE-PAID METERS AND MINIATURE CIRCUIT BREAKERS FOR THE KENYA OFF- GRID SOLAR ACCESS PROJECT.</p> <p>Invitation for bids from the Kenya Power and Lighting Company Ltd.</p> <p><b>Deadline: June 16, 2026 – 10:00 (local time)</b></p> <p><a href="#">For more information</a></p>	<p><b>Tanzania – AFD</b></p> <p>INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR GRID INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Invitation for pre-qualification for design, supply, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of buildings for the National Grid Control Centre (NGCC), the Main National Distribution Control Centre (MNDCC) and staff facilities in Dodoma and Distribution Control Centres (DCCS) located in Arusha, Mbeya and Mwanza (Lot 1 and Lot 2).</p> <p><b>Deadline: June 16, 2026 – 10.30 (local time)</b></p> <p><a href="#">For more information</a></p>
<p><b>Ethiopia – AFD</b></p> <p>INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR ADDIS ABABA BUS RAPID TRANSIT B2 (BRT B2) SYSTEMS &amp; NETWORK MANAGER</p> <p>The Addis Ababa Transport Bureau (AATB) has received financing from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) toward the cost of the Addis Ababa Bus Rapid Transit B2 (BRT B2) Project.</p> <p><b>Deadline: July 01, 2026 – 00:00 (local time)</b></p> <p><a href="#">For more information</a></p>	



## PRESENTATION OF CLUB MEMBERS : SKYNOPY



# SKYNOPY

**Thank you for presenting your company in the newsletter ! Could you please introduce your companies' activities, your sectors of operation, and your collaboration?**

Skynopy is a Paris-based Ground Station as a Service (GSaaS) provider, delivering end to end ground station services to LEO satellite operators worldwide. We operate a global network of 35+ S/X-band ground stations, purpose-built to maximise data throughput and contact frequency for satellite missions. Our services cover the full mission lifecycle — from mission analysis, radio frequency consultancy, radio testing and integration, ground station licensing, through LEOP and commissioning, to nominal operations. Skynopy gives satellite operators a single point of contact for all their ground segment needs, enabling them to focus on their mission rather than their infrastructure. We are active members of the DIFI consortium and work in close collaboration with the NewSpace ecosystem and Space Agencies across Europe, Asia, and Africa.

**Could you talk about the projects you currently have underway in the region?**

Skynopy has been actively expanding its ground station network across the African continent. We are proud partners of Kenya Space Agency through the SkyConnect project with Safran Data Systems, to integrate the ground station of KSA in our global network. This project is financed by the French Treasury through the FASEP mechanism. It is intended for all types of companies, with a priority given to SMEs. It is a grant (or a reimbursable advance) used to finance feasibility studies or demonstration projects involving green and innovative technologies. We envision to scale from the experience in other regions in East Africa, West Africa, and also Southern Africa, being the first player federating existing ground segment capabilities on the continent.

**Do you have any advice to give to other club members, or any information you would like to share?**

One key insight we'd like to share with club members is the opportunity that a federated ground segment network on the African continent represents not just for satellite communications, but for the entire value chain. The infrastructure Skynopy is in this region is designed to be shared, open, and scalable, meaning that operators, data providers, and downstream service companies can all benefit from increased capabilities without having to build their own ground segment from scratch.

For companies active in the region whether in Earth observation, connectivity, agriculture, maritime, or any data-driven sector, proximity to a reliable, high-throughput ground station network unlocks faster data delivery, lower latency, and new service possibilities that simply weren't accessible before. We see the Club RE & Sustainable City as a natural community to explore these synergies, and we encourage members to think about how federated ground infrastructure could enhance what they already do.

Skynopy is happy to provide a free initial assessment of ground station coverage and throughput potential for any member's mission. Please feel free to reach out directly via [info@skynopy.com](mailto:info@skynopy.com).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**MOMBASA, 16<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

### **Our Ocean Conference 11**

In 2026, Kenya will host the 11th Our Ocean Conference in Mombasa and Kilifi Counties on the vibrant Swahili Coast. As the first Our Ocean Conference held on African soil, the conference will place a global spotlight on ocean action and leadership across Africa and highlight the unique coastal communities, biodiversity, and ecosystems of Kenya and East Africa.

Guided by the theme “Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future” the conference will focus on the essential role that the ocean plays in shaping culture, communities, and livelihoods. Under Kenya’s leadership, the eleventh Our Ocean Conference will unite governments, communities, innovators, and businesses to move the global ocean agenda from dialogue to delivery, placing jobs, equity, and healthy oceans at the center of international cooperation.

**Location :** Mombasa

**Learn more :** [OOC 11](#)



## **MOMBASA, 18<sup>ST</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mombasa Ocean Festival**

Mombasa will host the 5th edition of the Mombasa Ocean Festival from 18 to 20 June. Coordinated by Alliance Française de Mombasa in partnership with the French Embassy and the EU Delegation in Kenya, this year's edition celebrates "Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future" alongside the 50 years anniversary of EU-Kenya Relations.

The programme combines an official opening with cultural events and a Science & Innovation Day bringing together researchers, innovators and policymakers.

**Location : Mombasa**

**Learn more :** [Mombasa Ocean Festival](#)



# INNOVATE CITIES



**NAIROBI, 21<sup>ST</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

**2026 Innovate4Cities Conference**

Nairobi will host the fourth Innovate4Cities Conference (I4C26) at UN-Habitat's Global Headquarters from 21 to 24 June. Co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), I4C26 brings together local, regional and national governments, academia, civil society, and industry to close priority knowledge gaps and provide an evidence base that can be used to deliver city climate action.

The conference is guided by the theme of multilevel governance and partnerships, exploring how cross-sectoral collaboration can turn global climate commitments into local action. A core focus will be connecting local leadership to global climate ambition and managing overshoot risks, accelerating the transition toward resilient, low-carbon urban futures.

Under Kenya's leadership, I4C26 will unite city leaders, researchers, innovators, and climate experts to connect science, policy, and practice on a single platform. Placing jobs, equity, and sustainable cities at the centre of international cooperation, the conference aims to move the global urban climate agenda from knowledge to action.

**Location :** Nairobi

**Learn more :** [Innovate4Cities](#)



# WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL | KENYA

**NAIROBI, 20<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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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