

# ATLAS OF AFRICA

# ENERGY

# RESOURCES



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ENERGY  
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RESOURCES



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Low energy supply, complete with shortages, high costs and poor access, remains major impediments to Africa's social and economic progress. The African Union's Agenda 2063 commits to fast-tracking modern, efficient, reliable and cost effective renewable energy for all households, businesses, industries and institutions. To support this, in 2016, the African Development Bank approved its New Deal on Energy for Africa, which aspires to achieving universal access to energy by 2025, using the latest off-grid and technology solutions. This atlas illustrates the incredible transformation ahead. Universal access requires large financial investments. By some estimates, Africa needs \$43-55 billion per year until 2030-2040, compared to current energy investments of about \$8-9.2 billion. To achieve close that gap, an improved understanding of energy availability, distribution and limitations is one of many crucial needs. In response, the African Development Bank, Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, worked with UN Environment have produced this Atlas of Africa Energy Resources.

The atlas compiles and synthesizes regional and national information. It presents the scale and distribution of energy resources, production and consumption trends, as well as the existing potential for environmentally sustainable expansion.

Communities are at the forefront of sustainable energy in Africa. In Kajiado County in Kenya's Rift Valley, the Maasai women are leading a solar-power revolution. A local organization trains the women to install solar products in homes and villages and to market the products within the community. In only seven months, solar energy use rose from zero to 20 per cent in the area. Now, children can study by solar light after nightfall and teenagers can sleep indoors instead of guarding livestock from predators. The economic, social and environmental benefits to the community are tremendous. These include savings on the cost of kerosene, less exposure to harmful indoor smoke and fewer trees cut down in their surroundings. Women are now more empowered and have taken ownership of the technology.

The African nations understand the complexities of the progress needed to deliver the Agenda 2063. They are simultaneously moving forward with economic development, while working towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

This Atlas will stimulate decision makers, planners, investors, energy experts, businesses and citizens to take actions to achieve sustainable, modern and affordable energy for all in Africa.



**Akinwumi Adesina**  
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*Executive Director, UN Environment*



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