

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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EXECUTIVE ASSESSMENT

Africa’s operating environment is shifting toward multi-sector expansion driven by energy, mining, and infrastructure investment. New upstream discoveries in Libya and Congo, renewable and hydrogen projects in Zambia and Egypt, and mining-led value capture strategies in Zimbabwe and Botswana show a system moving beyond raw output toward controlled resource positioning. At the same time, large-scale capital mobilization in South Africa, reform-backed financing in Morocco, and Afreximbank engagement in Ethiopia indicate sustained investment momentum across industrial and financial systems.

However, delivery conditions are tightening. Security pressure in Nigeria and Mozambique, logistics disruption in Angola’s Lobito corridor, and energy system fragility in Gabon highlight growing execution risk. The system is entering a phase of expansion under constraint, where growth remains strong but outcomes depend increasingly on coordination capacity, infrastructure reliability, and stability across key corridors.

Sector	Expansion Signal	Constraint / Risk	System Impact
Energy (Upstream)	New discoveries in Libya, +100M bbl Congo	Operational continuity, partner coordination	Output growth possible but fragile
Renewables	Zambia 600+ MW, Egypt 500 MW hydrogen	Financing and grid integration	Medium-term stability improvement
Mining	Gold (West Africa), lithium (Zimbabwe)	Regulation, processing capacity	Increasing value chain control
Infrastructure	South Africa investment mobilization (~ZAR 890bn)	Execution capacity, delays	High growth multiplier
Logistics	Lobito corridor, regional routes	Physical shocks (flooding), bottlenecks	Supply chains remain vulnerable
Security	Investment in energy regions	Nigeria, Mozambique, Somalia	Rising investment risk

INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Investment flows are expanding across infrastructure, energy, and digital systems, with a stronger focus on scale and system integration. In South Africa, the 2026 Investment

Conference secured 890 billion rand in commitments, while the government targets 3 trillion rand in mobilized investment over five years. This reflects sustained investor confidence and a structured effort to expand capital deployment.

Energy infrastructure investment is advancing alongside this trend. In South Africa, the 148 MW Bolobedu solar plant is now operational, producing around 300 GWh annually. This supports energy security while reinforcing the role of renewables in the national power mix.

Digital infrastructure is also scaling. In Gauteng, Africa Data Centres and Oni-Tel are expanding fiber networks to meet rising demand for cloud services and artificial intelligence. This indicates growing alignment between infrastructure and digital economy needs.

Across Southern Africa, resource-linked infrastructure is being reinforced. In Botswana, energy systems supporting mining operations are being upgraded through new transformer installations. At the same time, the government is pursuing greater control over the diamond sector through financing discussions linked to De Beers.

Investment activity is also extending into financial and extractive systems. In Gabon, a \$20 million payment dispute between Gabon Oil Company and Karpowership is creating risk for electricity generation, showing how financial disruptions can affect energy infrastructure. In Zambia, over \$500 million in renewable projects and additional wind capacity development are strengthening long-term supply stability.

Across systems, investment remains active and diversified. However, outcomes depend on execution capacity, financial stability, and the ability to integrate infrastructure with broader economic systems.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Energy and resource systems are expanding across hydrocarbons, renewables, and mining, while control over value chains is becoming more structured. In Libya, new oil and gas discoveries across Ghadames, Murzuq, and offshore zones are reinforcing upstream momentum and supporting the long-term production target of 2 million barrels per day. This expansion is aligned with increasing coordination between national institutions and international partners.

In Central Africa, hydrocarbon activity is also advancing. In the Republic of Congo, new discoveries in the Moho field exceeding 100 million barrels are strengthening offshore production capacity. This supports export potential and reinforces the country's position in regional oil supply.

At the same time, upstream investment is returning in Southern Africa. In Namibia, BP increased its offshore stake to 60% and assumed operatorship, while Eco Atlantic expanded its position. This reflects renewed interest from major energy companies in offshore exploration.

Renewable and transition energy investment is accelerating in parallel. In Zambia, projects totaling over 600 MW in solar and wind are being developed to reduce hydroelectric dependency. In Egypt, a 500 MW green hydrogen project targeting 175,000 tons of annual ammonia production is being planned for export markets, particularly Europe.

Mining systems are expanding under both pricing and policy drivers. In West Africa, rising gold prices are supporting production growth and new investment across the Senegal–Mali belt. In Ghana, a \$65 million financing deal linked to long-term gold offtake is strengthening capital access and market integration.

At the same time, policy-driven control is increasing. In Zimbabwe, stricter lithium processing requirements and export quotas are reinforcing domestic value retention. Selective access granted to Chinese firms shows a controlled export model rather than open market flow.

Across systems, resource expansion continues across multiple sectors. However, delivery remains dependent on infrastructure, regulatory alignment, and external market conditions.

Country/Region	Resource	Policy Direction	Model	Strategic Outcome
Libya	Oil & Gas	Production increase + international cooperation	Open + coordinated	2M bpd target
Congo	Offshore oil	Expansion of production capacity	Export-oriented	Regional supply strength
Namibia	Offshore	Return of IOCs (BP 60% stake)	Major-led	New frontier
Zimbabwe	Lithium	Processing mandate + export quotas	Controlled access	Domestic value retention
Botswana	Diamonds	Increased control over De Beers	State-driven	Revenue optimization
Ghana	Gold	Offtake-linked financing	Market + financial integration	Liquidity increase

POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

Political developments are increasingly centered on economic coordination, resource positioning, and external alignment. In Ethiopia, engagement with Afreximbank is focused on industrialization, infrastructure finance, and regional payment systems. This reflects a broader effort to strengthen economic resilience and expand intra-African trade.

In Libya, diplomatic activity is intensifying across multiple channels. Engagement between US advisor Massad Boulos and Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibeh reflects continued international support for the unified budget process. Discussions also covered oil production, military cooperation under Flintlock 26, and progress toward elections, linking political stabilization with economic governance.

At the same time, Libya is expanding bilateral coordination. The National Oil Corporation is working with the UK on visa facilitation for oil sector personnel, while agreements with Algeria to resume 14 weekly flights aim to restore economic connectivity. Parallel engagement with Niger signals broader regional outreach and diversification of partnerships.

Across North Africa, financial support mechanisms are reinforcing policy direction. In Morocco, a \$500 million World Bank reform program is targeting youth employment, SME growth, and renewable energy investment. This supports macroeconomic stability while strengthening long-term development capacity.

Regional energy diplomacy is also advancing. Morocco and Nigeria are preparing to formalize a \$25 billion gas pipeline agreement, which would create a major West Africa–Europe energy corridor. This reflects growing alignment between infrastructure development and geopolitical positioning.

In Southern Africa, domestic political positioning is evolving ahead of elections. In South Africa, the Democratic Alliance selected Geordin Hill-Lewis as party leader, focusing on security and expanding its voter base.

Across smaller states, diplomatic outreach remains active. In Eswatini, planned high-level visits are reinforcing bilateral relations, while Sudan and Ethiopia are restoring aviation cooperation to support trade and mobility.

Across systems, political and diplomatic activity is increasingly aligned with economic priorities. Governments are using partnerships, reforms, and infrastructure agreements to strengthen positioning in trade, energy, and regional integration.

SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

Security dynamics are increasingly shaped by the interaction between insurgency, governance fragmentation, and infrastructure vulnerability.

In Nigeria, air force operations against Boko Haram in Yobe are under investigation following reports of over 100 civilian deaths. This adds reputational pressure to ongoing counterinsurgency efforts and highlights the operational risks of military engagement in populated areas.

In Mozambique, insurgent activity in Cabo Delgado continues with attacks involving killings and abductions. This sustains instability in a region critical for gas projects and reinforces the exposure of energy investments to security disruption.

Governance-related security risk is also rising. In Somalia, Puntland signaled it may reconsider its relationship with the federal government due to insufficient security support. This points to weakening coordination and the risk of parallel authority structures emerging.

Infrastructure disruption is reinforcing these risks. In Angola, flooding damaged bridges along the Lobito corridor and halted rail operations. This directly affected copper and cobalt exports, showing how physical shocks can quickly impact strategic supply chains.

In Madagascar, Russia's provision of military equipment and training to the post-coup administration reflects growing external involvement in domestic security structures. This links internal stability with geopolitical influence and resource-related interests.

Across systems, security risk is converging around three layers: active insurgency zones, weakening institutional coordination, and exposure of critical infrastructure. These factors are increasingly shaping both stability and economic continuity across the continent.

EMERGING SYSTEM SIGNALS

- **Resource expansion is accelerating**

West Africa gold production is expanding with rising prices, while Nigeria is positioning for large-scale lithium development within a multi-trillion dollar reserve base

- **State control over strategic assets is increasing**

Zimbabwe's tighter lithium processing rules and Botswana's push to increase control over De Beers reflect a shift toward domestic value retention and controlled access

- **Energy systems remain financially exposed**

The \$20 million dispute in Gabon highlights how payment disruptions can directly threaten electricity generation and system stability

- **Infrastructure vulnerability is becoming more visible**

Flood damage in Angola's Lobito corridor shows how quickly export flows in copper and cobalt can be disrupted by physical shocks

- **Security and governance risks are converging**

Insurgency in Mozambique, operational pressure in Nigeria, and fragmentation signals in Somalia indicate rising coordination challenges across systems

- **External influence is expanding across sectors**

Russia's engagement in Madagascar and renewed offshore activity by global energy firms reflect increasing competition over security, energy, and resource access

- **System dynamic**

Expansion continues across energy, mining, and infrastructure, but outcomes are increasingly determined by coordination capacity, system resilience, and control over strategic assets

FORWARD OUTLOOK

Africa is moving into a phase where execution and system coordination will define outcomes more than new announcements. In energy, the focus will shift toward converting recent discoveries and project pipelines into stable output. Offshore activity in Namibia and Congo, along with Libya's production targets, will depend on operational continuity and partner alignment rather than exploration alone.

In mining, activity will remain strong but increasingly structured. Gold expansion in West Africa is likely to continue under favorable pricing, while lithium strategies in Nigeria and

Zimbabwe will evolve around processing capacity, export controls, and industrial integration. This suggests a transition from volume growth to value-chain positioning.

Investment patterns will remain active but more disciplined. Capital will continue to move toward markets with clearer policy frameworks and scalable infrastructure, while projects with weak coordination or financing gaps may face delays. Digital and energy-linked infrastructure will see the fastest execution where demand is already established.

At the system level, pressure points will remain visible. Energy supply stability, transport reliability, and financial coordination will continue to influence short-term performance. Events such as infrastructure disruption in Angola and energy-related financial stress in smaller markets show that system resilience remains uneven.

External alignment will continue to shape market access and strategic positioning. Engagement from global energy firms, financial institutions, and state actors will remain selective and tied to resource access, security cooperation, and long-term supply chains.

Overall, the next phase will be defined by how effectively systems convert momentum into delivery. Expansion will continue, but performance will increasingly depend on execution quality, institutional coordination, and the ability to manage localized disruptions without affecting broader system flow.