

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Africa

Date: 17 March 2026

Scope: Security | Energy | Politics | Diplomacy | Investment

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Across Africa, energy expansion, mineral strategy, and industrial policy are increasingly converging into a single strategic framework. Gas discoveries in Libya, upstream expansion in Angola, petrochemical investment in Egypt, and LNG planning in Kenya reflect a coordinated push to strengthen energy supply while scaling export capacity. At the same time, cobalt restrictions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and lithium policy dynamics in Zimbabwe indicate tightening state control over critical mineral value chains. The overall trajectory points to a dual strategy of increasing domestic value capture while maintaining access to external capital.

Structural constraints continue to shape the operating environment. Electricity shortages affecting Mozambique's aluminum sector, governance pressures in South Africa, and security deployments in Mali highlight persistent risks to industrial continuity and investment stability. Governments are responding through a mix of security consolidation, regulatory intervention, and private sector engagement, suggesting that growth momentum will remain closely tied to institutional capacity and infrastructure resilience.

FOCUS COUNTRIES AND SUBJECTS

Libya

Eni announced two new offshore gas discoveries near the Bahr Essalam field exceeding 1 trillion cubic feet. The finds reinforce Libya's role in the broader continental shift toward gas-driven energy expansion while supporting domestic power generation.

Eni also confirmed additional discoveries at BESS 2 and 3 exceeding 1 tcf and plans to add 100 million cubic feet per day by early 2026. Expanding reserves alongside near-term production targets reflects a coordinated strategy to translate upstream gains into export capacity and system reliability.

Angola

Angola and Russia formalized a legal framework for space cooperation based on the Angosat programs. Expanding cooperation into satellite infrastructure signals diversification of strategic partnerships alongside continued energy sector development.

ANPG and Azule Energy launched gas production at the Quiluma field while Alfort Petroleum advanced drilling plans in Block KON 8. Simultaneous expansion in gas and oil segments aligns with Angola's strategy to stabilize output and sustain export revenues.

Equinor's planned divestment from Blocks 31 and 31/21 reflects portfolio restructuring among international oil companies. The shift coincides with new upstream activity, indicating a transition phase where asset ownership changes without reducing overall sector momentum.

South Africa

Pan African Resources submitted a \$311 million bid to acquire Emmerson, reflecting efforts by domestic firms to expand internationally and mitigate local operational constraints.

Construction of the 475 MW Notsi solar project aims to strengthen renewable capacity and reduce pressure on the electricity grid. The development directly responds to structural energy shortages affecting industrial output.

Prosecutors reopened a corruption case against former minister Zizi Kodwa involving 1.6 million rand. Governance pressures and legal scrutiny continue to interact with energy constraints, shaping the broader investment climate.

Nigeria

Chinese solar manufacturers are seeking partnerships to establish local production facilities. Localizing production addresses cost pressures while supporting expansion of decentralized energy systems.

Indorama Ventures and partners launched a 45,000 ton per year recycled PET facility in Lagos. Expanding industrial capacity complements energy sector developments and supports economic diversification.

Authorities stated that 95 percent of growth toward a \$1 trillion economy must come from private sector investment, targeting around 7 percent annual growth by 2030. The model links energy expansion and industrial investment with private capital mobilization.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The government approved the acquisition of Chemaf, supporting expansion in copper and cobalt production. Consolidation strengthens output in a sector critical to global energy transition supply chains.

Export restrictions have reinforced expectations of a global cobalt supply deficit. Increased state control over strategic minerals aligns with the broader continental trend toward resource sovereignty while raising cost pressures downstream.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia attracted \$18.6 billion in foreign direct investment over five years, reflecting strong reform momentum and growing investor confidence.

Dangote Group signed a 25-year gas supply agreement to support a \$2.5 billion fertilizer project. Linking energy supply with industrial production demonstrates how investment inflows are being converted into manufacturing capacity.

Mali

Africa Corps plans to establish a permanent base in Diéma with approximately 150 personnel to counter GSIM activity. Expanding security presence aims to stabilize logistics corridors critical for economic activity.

A Malian delegation will visit Europe to re-engage investors. Security stabilization efforts and economic outreach are advancing in parallel, reflecting a dual-track recovery approach.

North Africa – Algeria | Egypt

Algeria is preparing a new hydrocarbon licensing round while LNG exports increased by 74 percent. Expanding upstream capacity alongside rising exports strengthens Algeria's role in regional energy supply.

Egypt is seeking financing for a 3.5 million ton petrochemical complex in the Suez Canal Economic Zone. Downstream expansion complements upstream growth across North Africa, reinforcing a regional strategy of integrating production with industrial processing.

Southern Africa – Botswana | Mozambique | Zimbabwe

Botswana denied claims of a foreign military base and reaffirmed national control over defense infrastructure. The response highlights sensitivity around sovereignty in strategic sectors.

South32 placed the Mozal aluminum smelter in maintenance mode due to insufficient electricity supply. Energy constraints are directly affecting industrial output, reinforcing the structural risks highlighted at the continental level.

Sinomine is negotiating with Zimbabwe to resume lithium exports following restrictions. The situation reflects a broader regional pattern where resource control policies interact with investor expectations under constrained industrial conditions.

Africa – General

Resource Governance and Investment Trends

Senegal's renegotiation of extractive contracts reflects a broader shift toward resource nationalism across the continent. At the same time, Resolute Mining's \$516 million gold project in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya's planned 1,200 MW LNG plant show that large-scale investment in mining and energy infrastructure continues, indicating that governments are tightening control while still attracting capital.

Economic Integration and Policy Environment

Morocco's outreach for technology cooperation alongside joint security coordination between Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia highlights growing regional alignment in both economic and security domains. In parallel, rising debt and currency pressures in Uganda point to underlying macroeconomic vulnerabilities that could constrain policy flexibility.

Security and Humanitarian Dynamics

Escalating conflict in South Sudan has displaced approximately 100,000 people into Ethiopia. Cross-border displacement is increasing humanitarian pressure while reinforcing the link between security instability and economic disruption across interconnected regions.

INVESTOR SIGNALS

Energy Sector

- Gas-focused upstream assets in Libya and Angola are gaining attractiveness due to integration with domestic demand and export routes
- Algeria's licensing round signals renewed entry opportunities in North African gas markets
- Egypt's petrochemical expansion creates downstream investment openings linked to existing infrastructure

Mining & Critical Minerals

- DRC remains high-potential but high-risk due to export controls and regulatory intervention
- Zimbabwe presents upside in processing capacity but policy volatility remains a key concern
- West African gold projects continue to attract capital under favorable pricing conditions

Infrastructure & Industrial

- LNG-to-power and decentralized solar models are expanding in Nigeria and Kenya
- Industrial projects dependent on stable electricity supply face elevated operational risk in Southern Africa
- Circular economy and manufacturing investments in Nigeria indicate diversification opportunities

Risk Outlook for Investors

- Energy availability risk is rising as a core investment variable
- Policy unpredictability in extractives is increasing across multiple jurisdictions
- Security-linked logistics corridors remain critical for long-term project viability

Forward Outlook

Attention will center on whether recent upstream discoveries and energy projects begin translating into tangible supply gains and infrastructure integration. Progress in Libya and Angola will be measured through production ramp-up and system connectivity, while developments in Algeria's licensing process and Egypt's downstream financing efforts will signal the depth of continued investor engagement in North African energy markets. At the same time, the pace of private capital mobilization in Nigeria and the conversion of investment

inflows into industrial output in Ethiopia will remain key indicators of broader economic momentum.

Regulatory direction in the extractive sector will remain under close observation. Ongoing negotiations in Zimbabwe and export policy dynamics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will provide further clarity on how governments balance resource control with investor retention. Additional signals from Senegal's contract renegotiation process may indicate whether stricter resource governance frameworks are becoming more widely institutionalized across the continent.

Structural constraints and security dynamics are expected to continue shaping near-term conditions. Electricity availability in Southern Africa will remain critical for industrial continuity, particularly in energy-intensive sectors, while security developments in the Sahel and displacement pressures linked to South Sudan will influence logistics corridors and operational stability. The interplay between infrastructure capacity, policy consistency, and security conditions will remain central to short-term risk exposure.