

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Africa

Date: 31 March 2026

Scope: Security | Energy | Politics | Diplomacy | Investment

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Across Africa, resource policy is becoming more tightly linked to infrastructure control, fiscal management, and external partnership strategy. Libya, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa illustrate a shared pattern in which governments and state-linked entities are trying to expand production, secure investment, and stabilize supply systems at the same time. The underlying constraint is not a lack of project activity but the uneven ability of institutions to convert commercial momentum into durable operational gains.

A second structural trend is the growing integration of energy, mining, and industrial policy across regional lines. Nigeria and Senegal are moving toward refining and supply coordination, Tanzania and Kenya are pairing foreign capital with value-added industrial ambitions, and Algeria is widening its strategic reach through hydrocarbon and petrochemical diplomacy. This indicates that African states are increasingly pursuing sectoral linkages rather than isolated projects, with transport, processing capacity, and local industrial ecosystems becoming more central to competitiveness.

The third dynamic is that supply expansion is unfolding alongside persistent governance and security frictions. Libya's parallel economic authority structures, Guinea's border-linked resource tensions, Somalia's transparency concerns in hydrocarbons, and the deadly attack near a mining area in South Sudan all show that control over territory, contracts, and revenue remains contested in several high-potential markets. The broader picture is one of active investment and production repositioning, but with outcomes likely to depend on institutional coherence, regulatory credibility, and the security of resource corridors rather than headline deal volume alone.

FOCUS COUNTRIES AND SUBJECTS

Libya

Libya Reconstruction Fund rejected outcomes of national economic dialogue processes, stating they are non-binding. The position deepens institutional fragmentation and complicates unified economic governance.

Oil production resumed at the El-Fil and Sharara fields, restoring output capacity under global supply uncertainty. The restart reinforces revenue generation but highlights continued exposure to disruption cycles.

The National Oil Corporation published updated data on fuel stocks and tanker movements. Increasing traceability supports supply continuity and aims to reduce diversion risks.

Sirte Oil Company reactivated gas lines at the Zueitina power plant that had been offline since 2009. Expanding gas supply supports electricity generation and grid stability.

Misrata and Zenica signed a sister-city agreement to expand cooperation in economic and municipal services. The move strengthens local-level institutional and commercial ties.

The Reconstruction Fund also rejected outcomes of economic dialogue meetings in Tunisia, reaffirming its independent legal mandate. Parallel governance structures continue to shape development policy execution.

Libya and Greece strengthened relations with the reopening of the Greek consulate in Benghazi. The move facilitates visas and expands diplomatic and economic engagement.

Libya and Spain are preparing for a Spanish business delegation visit to Tripoli in May. The initiative aims to expand private sector cooperation and investment opportunities.

Foreign currency shipments were delivered to the Central Bank via Mitiga Airport. The transfer supports liquidity and short-term payment capacity.

Egypt

Egypt imposed early business closures and reduced lighting requirements in Cairo to manage rising energy costs. Demand-side controls reflect continued pressure from energy import dependency.

President Sisi held talks with ExxonMobil and Apache to expand exploration and upstream investment. Reinforcing payment commitments aims to sustain investor confidence and accelerate activity.

Ganope agreements with BP and SLB will accelerate Red Sea exploration, while cooperation with United Energy Group focuses on drilling expansion and solar integration. The approach combines production growth with operational efficiency.

South Africa

Traxion is investing in training and scholarship programs to address skills shortages in rail and logistics. Strengthening human capital supports transport reliability and export capacity.

Harmony Gold is expanding into copper alongside gold production to diversify its portfolio. The strategy increases resilience against commodity price volatility.

Jinko Solar introduced next-generation solar and storage technologies, while the 240 MW Mooi Plaats plant became operational with expected annual output of 360 million kWh. These developments accelerate renewable capacity expansion.

Fuel shortages across more than 140 stations and expected price increases, despite tax reductions, highlight continued vulnerability to global oil market shocks. Import dependence remains a structural constraint.

Nigeria

Nigeria and Senegal agreed to strengthen cooperation in oil supply and refining. The partnership supports regional energy integration and domestic capacity development.

Nigeria launched a Small Hydropower Center of Excellence with China and UNIDO to develop its 734 MW hydro potential. The initiative focuses on technical capacity and knowledge transfer.

NNPC is preparing for a potential listing in New York and London while advancing the \$20 billion Bonga Southwest project. These steps aim to attract investment and strengthen global market positioning.

Asian oil imports shifted toward West Africa amid Middle East supply disruptions, with shipments from Nigeria and Angola reaching 3.72 million bpd in March. The shift strengthens Nigeria's role in global supply chains.

Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar resigned ahead of a planned gubernatorial run in Bauchi. The move reflects electoral positioning dynamics ahead of 2027.

DRC | Malawi

The DRC is expanding copper production with Chinese-backed investment while strengthening its role in global supply chains. Increased output reinforces its strategic importance in electrification markets.

Malawi confirmed a multi-mineral system including niobium and rare earth elements at the Mpyupyu site. The discovery strengthens its potential role in critical mineral supply.

Guinea

Sanu Gold confirmed an 8 km gold corridor with multiple high-grade targets at the Daina site. The discovery supports accelerated resource development.

Rising tensions along the Guinea–Liberia border linked to gold, diamond, and lithium resources highlight growing competition over resource-rich territories. The situation increases regional instability risk.

Tanzania | Kenya | Ethiopia

Tanzania is expanding cooperation with China's Liaoning Fangda Group in mining and mineral processing. The partnership supports value-added production and technology transfer.

Kenya and UAE-based AriseIIP plan to attract over \$3 billion in industrial and textile investments within five years. The initiative aims to strengthen Kenya's role as a manufacturing hub.

Ethiopia is engaging with AIIB to expand financing for infrastructure projects including Bishoftu International Airport. The strategy supports private sector growth and regional aviation hub ambitions.

Cameroon | Côte d'Ivoire | Ghana

Access Holdings and Cameroon agreed to expand cooperation in infrastructure finance and public financial management. The partnership supports long-term economic development.

A 52 MWp solar project in Ferkessédougou reached construction phase after financing closure. The project strengthens renewable capacity and electricity supply.

Ghana and Zimbabwe called for deeper cooperation across trade, energy, and infrastructure. Expanding bilateral ties supports regional economic integration.

Somalia | South Sudan

The arrival of the drilling vessel at the Curad-1 field marks a new phase in Somalia's oil exploration. Governance concerns remain around transparency and revenue management.

An attack near a mining site in South Sudan killed at least 74 workers. The incident highlights persistent security risks in resource-rich areas.

Algeria

Algeria and India discussed expanding cooperation in hydrocarbons, mining, petrochemicals, and fertilizers. The talks reflect efforts to deepen strategic energy and industrial partnerships.

Forward Outlook

In the coming days, the key indicator will be whether operational continuity can be maintained across energy and mining systems under tightening fiscal and logistical constraints. Field restarts in Libya, demand-management measures in Egypt, and fuel supply disruptions in South Africa point to a short-term environment where system stability depends on real-time coordination rather than structural fixes. Monitoring production consistency, power generation reliability, and fuel distribution flows will be critical in assessing immediate resilience.

At the same time, early signals will emerge on how effectively governments align external partnerships with domestic policy objectives. Engagements with international oil companies in Egypt, capital market positioning in Nigeria, and industrial investment frameworks in East Africa will test whether foreign capital can be translated into scalable output and local value creation. Investor behaviour is likely to remain selective, prioritizing jurisdictions where regulatory clarity and execution capacity are more predictable.

A parallel pressure point will be the interaction between security dynamics and resource access. Incidents in South Sudan, rising tension around mineral-rich border zones in West Africa, and governance concerns in Somalia highlight that physical control over assets and transport routes remains uneven. Short-term developments will therefore be shaped by how states manage localized instability while sustaining project timelines, particularly in regions where resource extraction and security risks are closely intertwined.