



UNDP ROME CENTRE

CLIMATE FINANCE PORTFOLIO

Projects under preparation

Through PISTA and Energy for Growth for Africa Programmes

2026



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Contact

For more information on UNDP Rome Centre's work, please contact info.romecentre@undp.org

About UNDP Rome Centre

UNDP Rome Centre for Climate and Energy serves as a global hub for accelerating investment in sustainable infrastructure and energy transition. Its work focuses on helping developing countries unlock finance for climate action, decarbonisation, and inclusive economic growth. By bridging public and private capital, the Centre works to move projects from concept to investment readiness, supporting governments, project developers, and financial institutions in structuring initiatives that deliver both climate and development impact.

The Centre's approach combines policy and technical support with transaction-oriented assistance. This includes early-stage project development, financial structuring, environmental and social assessments, and direct engagement with financiers to strengthen bankability. Working closely with UNDP Country Offices and development partners, the Centre helps create pipelines of investable projects aligned with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Currently, the Rome Centre is supporting a diverse portfolio of projects across Africa, providing targeted assistance to strengthen their financial, technical, and environmental readiness for investment. These projects span sectors such as renewable energy generation, energy access, agri-business, industrial decarbonisation, nature-based solutions, and sustainable finance. A central focus is to ensure that developing economies can access the financing and partnerships needed to implement low-carbon, climate-resilient growth pathways.

The projects presented below illustrate the type of investment opportunities being facilitated by the UNDP Rome Centre — each at different stages of development, and each representing a concrete step toward advancing sustainable energy and climate resilience in partner countries.

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Foreword

Development ultimately depends on whether countries and institutions can turn priorities into projects that are technically sound, financially credible, and ready to move. That is where the work of UNDP Rome Centre is focused.

This portfolio brings together a selection of projects supported through PISTA and Energy for Growth in Africa, two initiatives through which Italy and UNDP are working to help bridge the gap between development goals and implementation. These projects reflect the range of challenges countries are facing today, from energy access and grid resilience to sustainable industry, clean mobility, resilient agriculture, and waste management. They also reflect a common need: stronger preparation, better partnerships, and financing structures that can unlock action at scale.

What connects the projects in this portfolio to each other is a shared logic. Each project responds to national priorities. Each seeks to generate tangible development impact. And each shows that climate finance is most effective when it is rooted in real needs, shaped with local partners, and connected to credible pathways for delivery.

At UNDP Rome Centre, our role is to help make those pathways more possible. We work with governments, UNDP Country Offices, development finance institutions, and private sector actors to strengthen project pipelines, reduce barriers to investment, and support solutions that can deliver both climate and development results.

We hope this portfolio offers a useful window into that work, and into the kind of practical cooperation that is needed to move from commitment to implementation.

Agostino Inguscio

Representative of UNDP in Italy
Coordinator of the UNDP Rome Centre
for Climate Action and Energy Transition



Current pipeline on the map



Angola

- Renewable energy thematic bonds
- Advancing Sustainable Electrification Across Benguela and Bié in the Lobito Corridor (Angola)

Comoros

- Mount Karthala Geothermal Power Generation Project

Côte d'Ivoire

- 76 MW Cocoa Biomass Power Plant

Djibouti, Kenya Somalia

- The Resilience Impact Fund for the Horn of Africa (RIFHA)

Egypt

- Solar Energy Transition in Industries (SETI)

Eswatini

- 23 MW Lower Maguga Hydro Project

Ethiopia

- Enterprise Financing Facility (EFF)

Kenya

- Sustainable Biofuel Pilot Demonstration Facility
- Kleen Hydro
- Giraffe Bioenergy

Libya

- 50MW Solar Power Plant

Mauritania

- Project d'Electrification Rurale des Zones Isolees (PERZI)

Morocco and Senegal

- Cold storage project

Nigeria

- Climate risk-informed coastal planning and risk reduction for a resilient Lagos

Republic of the Congo

- Plateformes Industrielles Du Congo (PICP)
- Système d'Alimentation en Eau Potable (SAEP) DJOUE II

Rwanda

- IZI Electric
- Nature-positive and climate-resilient solutions for food systems in Africa

Senegal

- Senegal – Low-Carbon Urban Mobility (E-Taxi Scale-Up)

Senegal & Uganda

- De-risking & Scaling Climate-Resilient Agricultural Financing for Public Development Banks

Tanzania

- Zanzibar Sustainable Integrated Fisheries & Transport Investment Initiative

Tunisia

- Bio-methanization project in Djerba Island

Uganda

- Waste Management Infrastructure
- GHFC Green H2 Fertilizer Project

Ukraine

- Air Quality Monitoring Infrastructure

Zambia

- Cooma Solar Power
- Lufubu Hydropower Project
- Kafue–Sesheke Solar Projects
- SupaMoto
- Nature-based solutions for agropastoral resilience to climate change in catchments of Zambia



OUR WORK

We simply help countries move from climate ambition to implementation by supporting the development of strong, investable projects. Working across developing markets, with a current focus on Africa, the Rome Centre helps identify climate and energy opportunities, strengthen projects through technical assistance, and connect them with the financing needed for delivery. This work is part of the Centre's broader role in supporting project pipeline development, investment readiness, and resource mobilisation in partnership with governments, UNDP Country Offices, development finance institutions, and private sector actors.

Our support is designed to respond to a common challenge. Many countries have strong national priorities on climate, energy access, resilience, and sustainable infrastructure, but too few projects are ready to secure financing at the scale required. Projects often need further design work, feasibility assessments, risk reduction measures, financial structuring, or stronger alignment with investor expectations before they can move forward. The Rome Centre helps close that gap by supporting projects at different stages of development and helping translate national priorities into credible investment opportunities.



How we support projects

Project origination

The Rome Centre helps generate a pipeline of climate and energy projects through structured calls for applications, country-level engagement, and close coordination with UNDP Country Offices and government counterparts. This approach makes it possible to identify projects that respond to national priorities while applying consistent screening criteria across the portfolio. By combining open calls with country engagement, the Centre can source opportunities across sectors and geographies while staying anchored in country demand.

Technical assistance

Once identified, projects receive tailored support to improve their technical, financial, social, and environmental readiness. This can include feasibility work, bankability support, risk analysis, structuring advice, and other forms of project preparation that help make investments more viable. Across the portfolio, the Rome Centre supports projects in areas such as clean energy, climate-resilient agriculture, circular economy, waste management, cold storage, industrial infrastructure, and adaptation. The aim is to help strong ideas become well-prepared projects that can move with greater confidence toward financing and implementation.

Investment mobilisation

The Rome Centre also works to connect supported projects with public and private financiers, including development finance institutions and blended finance partners. This includes facilitating dialogue with financiers, helping projects align with investment requirements, and supporting structures that can reduce risk and crowd in additional capital. In the current portfolio, several supported projects have already secured financing, while others are in advanced discussion with institutions such as the Italian Climate Fund, AfDB, BIO Invest, Finnfund, and other development finance partners.

A growing portfolio

Through this model, the Rome Centre supports a growing portfolio of projects that respond to real country needs while creating pathways to larger-scale investment. Current projects span multiple sectors, including solar power, geothermal energy, rural electrification, climate-resilient agriculture, waste-to-energy, sustainable cold storage, industrial decarbonisation, water infrastructure, and resilience-focused financing facilities. Together, they reflect a practical approach to climate finance, one that combines country alignment, technical preparation, and financier engagement to help move projects toward implementation.

This work is part of the Rome Centre's broader contribution to climate action and energy transition. By helping countries develop stronger pipelines and more investment-ready projects, the Centre supports a wider shift from isolated project ideas to scalable, financeable solutions that can deliver climate and development results on the ground.

How this support is delivered in practice

UNDP Rome Centre delivers this support through dedicated instruments that help move projects from early identification to investment readiness and financing.

PISTA, the Rome Centre's climate finance mobilisation instrument, helps turn nationally identified climate priorities into technically viable and financially sound investment proposals. Operational since July 2024, it provides targeted technical assistance grants and works with public and private financiers to help unlock blended finance for implementation. PISTA has gained strong international recognition: It is referenced in Article 33(d) of the Compromiso de Sevilla, the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, as a platform to help scale foreign direct investment and private capital mobilisation for climate-related projects, and it has been selected as a core initiative under the Sevilla Platform for Action.

Energy for Growth in Africa is a G7-endorsed UNDP initiative that strengthens the early stages of clean energy project development across Africa. Currently operating in 10 countries, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zambia, the programme works through energy and finance experts embedded in UNDP Country Offices. These teams help identify projects aligned with national energy strategies and climate commitments, support their early development, and connect them with partners and financing opportunities. In practice, Energy for Growth helps build the pipeline that can then be strengthened further through technical assistance and investor engagement, including through instruments such as PISTA.

ANGOLA

Renewable energy
thematic bonds

day's Market Watch

DATE: 08-12-2015
TIME: 11:53

Ask Quantity	Ask Price	Previous Closing	Trade Price	Net Change	Total
33900	20.80	26.80	20.80	-6.00	04352
19000	176.00	170.00	173.00	-3.00	10000
137200	10.85	10.85	10.85	-0.05	050000
40000	8.85	7.65	7.65	0.00	10000
36000	18.95	18.95	18.95	-0.05	27725
0	0.00	2.85	2.00	0.05	20000
0	0.00	11.55	11.00	0.20	50000
0	0.00	4.60	4.20	-0.05	20000
0	0.00	19.80	19.05	-0.05	25000
71600	9.90	164.00	165.00	-1.00	
29000	20.00				

A sustainable finance initiative designed to help channel more long-term investment into renewable energy and other environmentally sustainable projects in Angola.

Working with the Angola Stock Exchange, BODIVA, and commercial banks including BFA and BAI, the initiative is designed to support new financing for projects in areas such as solar, hydropower, wind, bioenergy and green hydrogen. The project is based in Angola and is designed to support the country's domestic sustainable finance market.

01 Why does it matter?

One of the biggest barriers to energy transition is not only identifying good projects, but finding the right financing tools to support them. This initiative helps build Angola's domestic sustainable finance market and creates new ways to channel long-term investment into clean energy. It also supports Angola's climate goals by encouraging alternatives to diesel generation and traditional biomass use, especially in rural areas.

02 Who benefits?

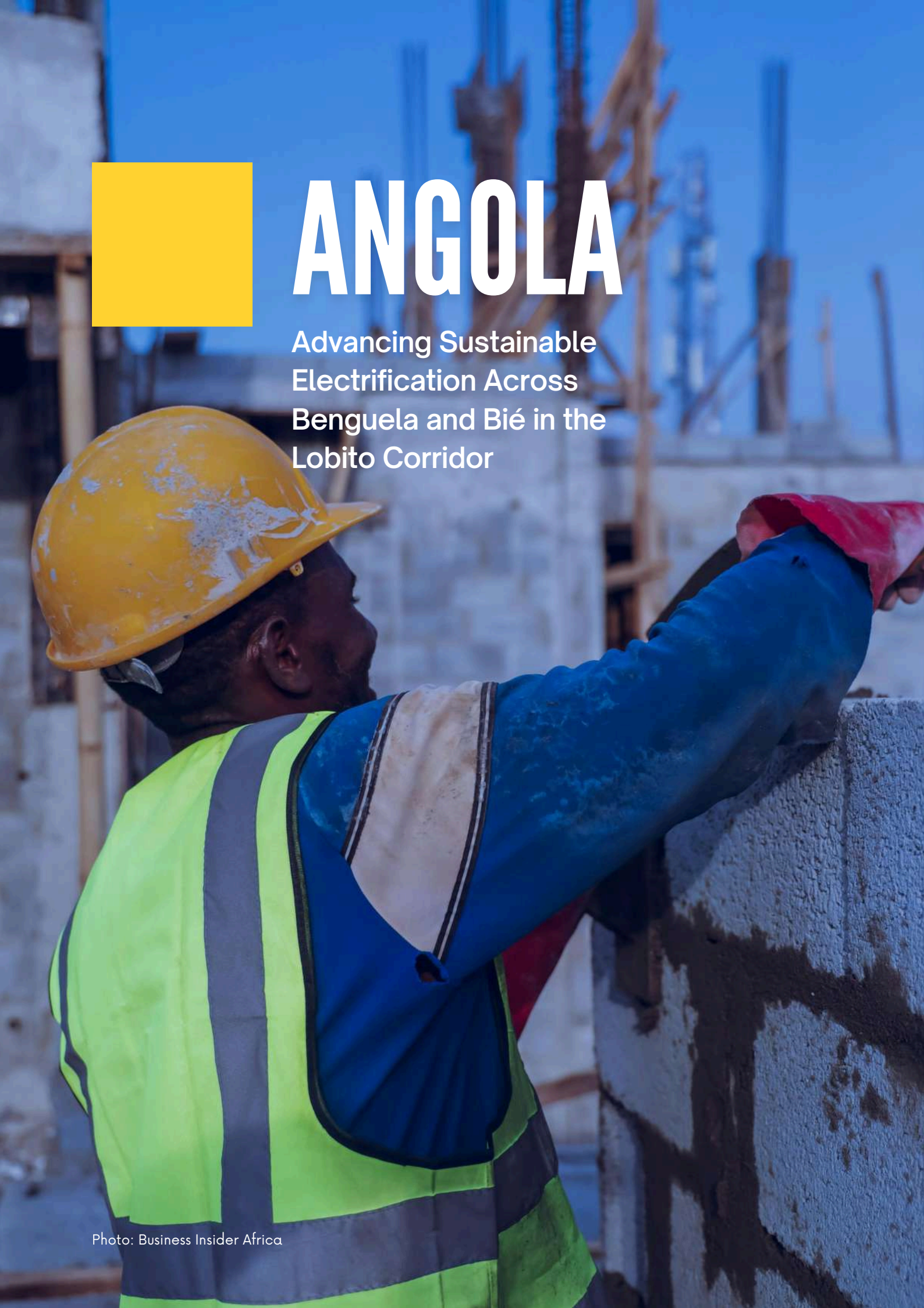
The project can benefit financial institutions, energy developers, investors and public institutions working on Angola's energy transition. In the longer term, it can also support communities that need cleaner and more reliable energy solutions, particularly in rural areas.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical assistance focused on three areas: strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders on green bonds and sustainable finance, raising awareness among businesses and investors, and helping prepare the green bond framework for a possible 2026 issuance by BFA Bank. This support is also helping lay the groundwork for a stronger pipeline of investable sustainable projects.

04 What stage is it at?

The development phase has been completed. Guidelines for issuing thematic bonds are in place, stakeholder capacity-building has been carried out, and support to partner banks on green bond frameworks has already been delivered. The project is now moving forward with investor engagement ahead of potential bond issuances in 2026.



ANGOLA

Advancing Sustainable
Electrification Across
Benguela and Bié in the
Lobito Corridor

Focused on underserved parts of the country, this initiative would strengthen electricity distribution infrastructure while adding a 5 MW solar PV plant.

It is designed to improve reliability, extend access to power and reduce dependence on diesel-based generation along the Lobito Corridor. The project is located in Benguela Province and Bié Province in Angola.

01 Why does it matter?

Reliable electricity is essential for local services, economic activity and long-term development, yet many inland areas still face major infrastructure gaps. This project matters because it combines grid expansion, rehabilitation and renewable energy in a way that can support both immediate access needs and longer-term resilience. It is also strategically important because it supports electrification along the Lobito Corridor, an area that is increasingly central to Angola's economic development and regional connectivity.

02 Who benefits?

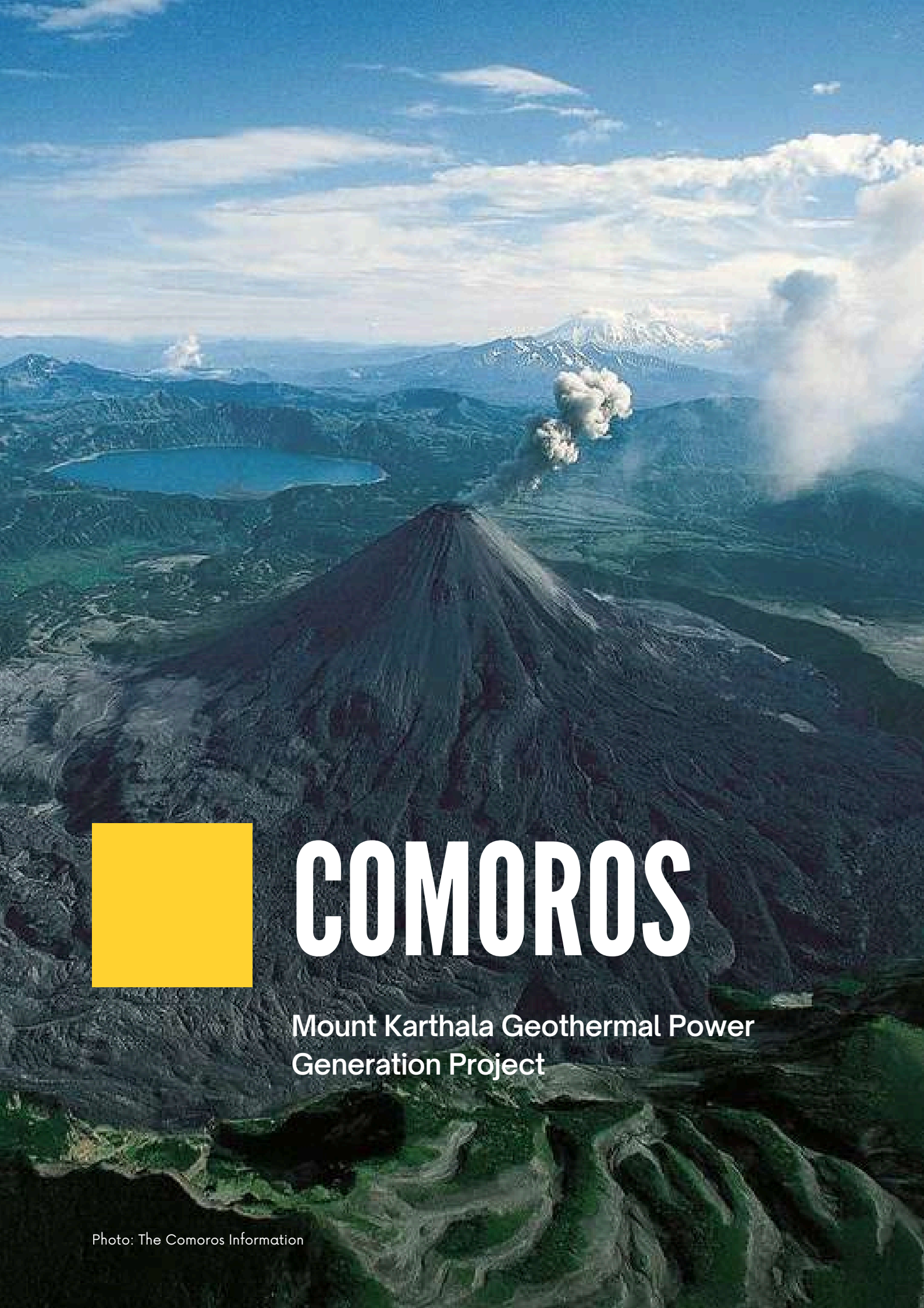
The project is expected to benefit households, businesses and public services in underserved municipalities across Benguela and Bié, including through more than 55,000 new electricity connections. It can also support national institutions responsible for energy access and grid development, while creating wider benefits through more reliable electricity and reduced emissions.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is considering technical assistance support to help move the project toward investment readiness. This includes confirmatory technical assessments, environmental and social impact assessment work, financial modelling and project structuring, and engagement with potential financiers.

04 What stage is it at?

The project has already completed preliminary technical designs, network topology, equipment sizing and costed bills of quantities for both provinces, and it is included in Angola's Public Investment Programme. The next phase is focused on the additional technical, environmental and financial work needed to prepare the project for financing.



COMOROS

Mount Karthala Geothermal Power
Generation Project

Photo: The Comoros Information

A 15 MW geothermal power plant designed to harness the energy beneath Mount Karthala and provide a more stable supply of electricity in Comoros.

The plan is to build a 15 MW geothermal power plant that can provide baseload power and strengthen the country's energy supply using a local renewable resource. The project is located on Grande Comore Island in Comoros, near Mount Karthala.

01 Why does it matter?

Comoros faces major energy challenges, including limited and unreliable electricity supply. This project could help change that by using geothermal energy, a stable renewable source that can generate power continuously. It would also reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and help build a stronger, more resilient energy system for the country.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit households, businesses and public services in Comoros by supporting a more stable electricity supply. It can also help national institutions working on energy development and create longer-term benefits for the country's economy and energy security.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is helping strengthen the project through technical and institutional support. This includes additional studies and analyses to reduce risk around the geothermal resource, capacity development for the Bureau Géologique de Comores, and support for outreach and financier engagement, including the organisation of a roundtable with potential financing partners. This support complements a wider UNDP-led project funded by the Global Environment Facility.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently in the exploration and development stage. Part of the exploration financing has already been secured, and implementation is underway. Financing for the next phase, including post-exploration investment, will be pursued once exploration is successfully completed.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

76 MW Cocoa Biomass
Power Plant

Photo: UNDP Côte d'Ivoire

Designed to turn cocoa residues into reliable renewable electricity the project will establish a 76 MW biomass power plant in Divo.

By linking energy generation with agricultural by-products, it aims to add stable baseload power to Côte d'Ivoire's grid while creating a stronger circular connection between farming and energy.

01 Why does it matter?

Côte d'Ivoire's power system still relies heavily on gas, so diversifying the energy mix is an important national priority. This project matters because it can provide large-scale renewable power while making productive use of cocoa residues that would otherwise go underused. It also has wider value for rural development, since it connects the energy transition with agricultural livelihoods, emissions reduction and greater climate resilience.

02 Who benefits?

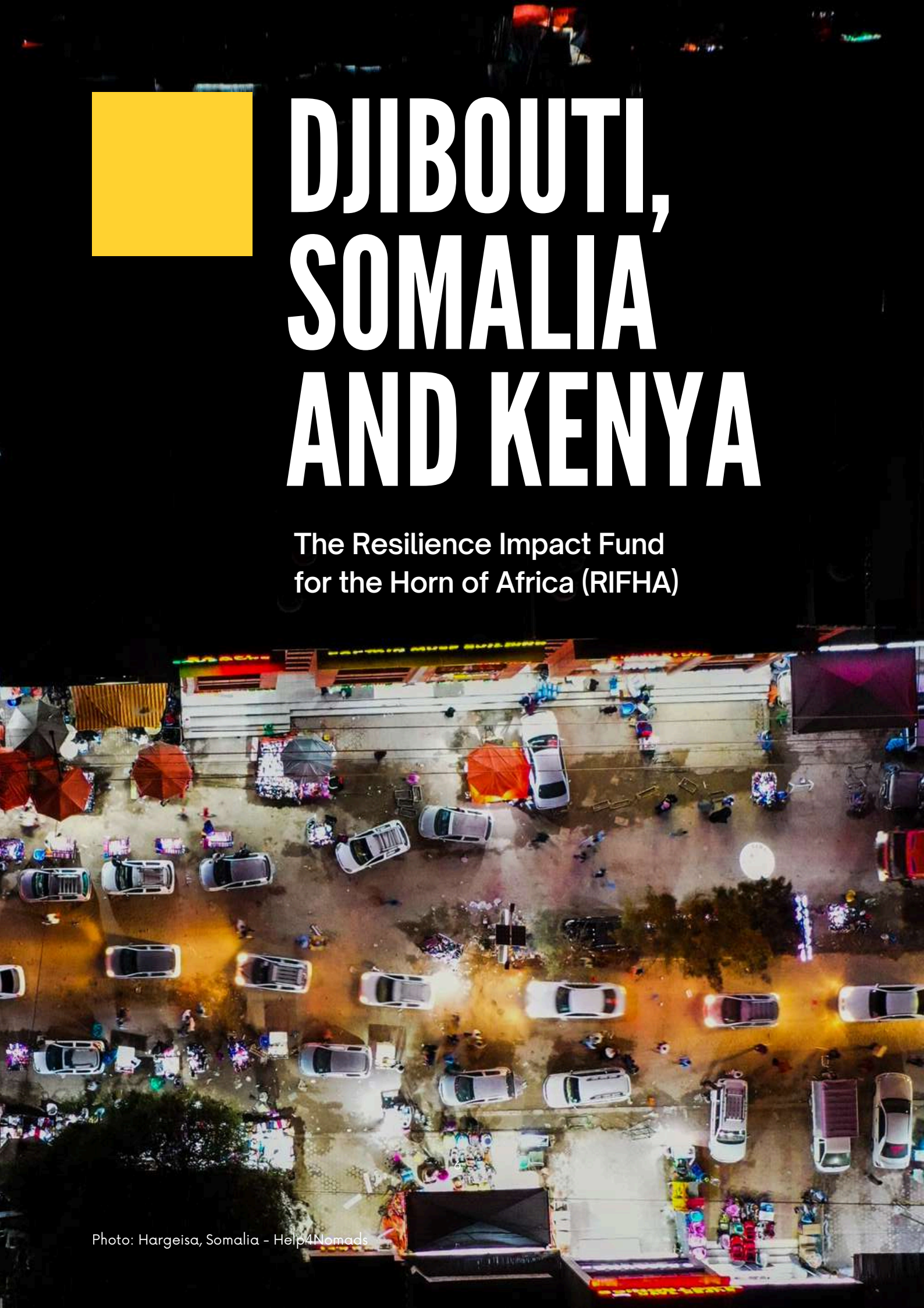
The project can benefit the national power system by adding more reliable renewable electricity to the grid. It can also create value for rural communities and agricultural actors linked to the cocoa sector, while supporting wider economic and environmental benefits through a more circular and sustainable use of local resources.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is considering technical assistance support focused on two areas: detailed analysis of biomass samples for emissions characterization, and a pilot on biomass collection combined with an agroforestry renewal demonstration. This support is intended to strengthen the project's environmental and operational foundation.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is in its final pre-construction development phase. Key studies, financial modelling and environmental and social assessment work have already been completed, negotiations on the concession and tariff are advanced, most of the equity has been secured, and work is underway to finalize the remaining financing structure.



DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA AND KENYA

The Resilience Impact Fund
for the Horn of Africa (RIFHA)

Photo: Hargeisa, Somalia - Help4Nomads

A regional investment fund designed to support small and growing businesses in the Horn of Africa

Focusing on delivering practical solutions in areas such as food security, clean energy, waste management, water, health and sanitation. The fund focuses on Djibouti, Somalia and northern Kenya.

01 Why does it matter?

Many smaller businesses in fragile and climate-vulnerable contexts struggle to access the kind of finance they need to grow. They are often too large for microfinance, but still too small or too risky for larger investors. RIFHA is designed to help close that gap by backing enterprises that can strengthen resilience, create jobs and deliver essential services in communities facing climate stress, conflict and economic vulnerability. It also links climate action with local stability and longer-term development in a region where these issues are deeply connected.

02 Who benefits?

The fund is intended to benefit local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially those serving vulnerable communities. It has a particular focus on supporting businesses that can create jobs and improve access to essential goods and services, including for women and young people.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the fund through technical and strategic work that helps strengthen its design and investment case. This includes studies and market assessments on the pipeline of SMEs in the Horn of Africa, the development of an SDG and climate resilience framework for impact investment, and support for co-creation and fundraising efforts around the fund.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is at an advanced stage and is moving toward financial close. Part of the initial funding has already been secured, discussions with development finance institutions are ongoing, and grant support for technical assistance has also been approved.



EGYPT

Solar Energy Transition in
Industries (SETI)

Photo: Scopio Images

A large-scale initiative designed to help government-owned facilities shift to solar energy with small-scale solar PV capacity.

The project combines public-sector demand, private-sector delivery and financial support through a proposed credit facility that would help independent power producers finance and implement solar systems across multiple sites.

01 Why does it matter?

Egypt's industrial and commercial sectors have a major role to play in the country's energy transition. By helping public facilities adopt solar power at scale, this initiative can reduce reliance on conventional energy sources, lower emissions and create a model for cleaner industrial development. It also helps build a stronger market for renewable energy solutions by creating opportunities for independent power producers and local financial institutions to support implementation.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit public industrial and commercial facilities in Egypt, independent power producers developing and operating the solar systems, and national institutions working on energy transition and industrial modernization. In the longer term, it can also support wider economic and environmental benefits through cleaner energy use and stronger local renewable energy capacity.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the design and preparation of the project across several areas. This includes identifying suitable sites, developing the environmental and social management framework, strengthening the financial model, supporting the prequalification of independent power producers, carrying out gender analysis and action planning, and helping mobilise financing. UNDP's role also includes supporting the broader technical assistance window that will help projects meet financial and regulatory requirements.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is in an advanced preparation phase. Strong support has already been secured from key government institutions, including relevant ministries and the Central Bank of Egypt, while discussions on the proposed credit facility are progressing with local banking partners. Interest from international financiers has also been confirmed, and follow-up engagement is underway.

An aerial photograph of an industrial facility, likely a sugar mill, featuring four large, cylindrical silver silos with conical roofs. A network of yellow pipes and walkways connects the silos. Below the silos, there are various industrial buildings, including one with a blue roof and another with a corrugated metal roof. In the foreground, a town with residential buildings and trees is visible. The background consists of rolling hills with sparse vegetation. A yellow square is positioned to the left of the main title text.

ESWATINI

23 MW Lower Maguga
Hydro Project

Photo: Khaya Motsa

Developed by Eswatini's national power utility, this hydropower project would expand generation capacity at Lower Maguga through two phases of investment.

It combines an upgrade to the existing power station with the construction of a new downstream facility to increase domestic renewable electricity supply.

01 Why does it matter?

Eswatini currently imports most of its electricity, which makes energy security a major national concern. This project matters because it can help reduce dependence on imported power, strengthen domestic generation capacity and support the country's climate priorities. It also offers a longer-term opportunity to build a more resilient and self-reliant energy system.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit households, businesses and public institutions in Eswatini by contributing to a more secure and reliable electricity supply. It can also support the national utility and the wider economy by reducing pressure on imported power and expanding local renewable generation.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is supporting the project through financing mobilisation efforts aimed at helping secure the additional resources needed for both phases.

04 What stage is it at?

The main studies and assessments, including the feasibility study, environmental and social impact assessment, and financial analysis, have already been completed. The project is now moving through the next stage of preparation, with gap-closing work underway, the financial model being updated, and discussions continuing with potential lenders.

INVESTING IN LOCAL SOLUTIONS

to Build Climate Resilience from the Ground Up in Africa

Resilience is needed now more than ever. In a multipolar world marked by uncertainty, communities, businesses, and governments must be able to withstand and recover from shocks such as climate disasters, economic downturns and systemic disruptions. Africa, in particular, faces an urgent need to strengthen climate resilience across every layer of its economy and society.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the continent. Representing 80% of employment and contributing more than half of Africa's GDP, SMEs are central to inclusive growth. Yet many remain precariously close to financial instability. Compounding this vulnerability, the continent loses an estimated 2-5% of its GDP annually due to the intensifying impacts of climate change—heatwaves, floods, droughts, and cyclones.

At the same time, many African countries face a widening gap in financing sustainable development. Average tax revenues amount to just 16% of GDP, which is well below global norms, and official development assistance is in decline. As a result, governments often lack the fiscal space to respond to immediate climate risks while also pursuing long-term development priorities. Too often, they face impossible trade-offs—responding to climate emergencies or addressing the structural drivers of vulnerability, such as weak infrastructure, degraded ecosystems, economic instability, and inequality.

This leads to a financial system that frequently overlooks the transformative power of smaller businesses in building resilience and delivering climate solutions.



Photo: SCALA Côte d'Ivoire

Many financiers still perceive SMEs as high-risk, citing limited collateral, short operating histories, informal business models, and insufficient climate data to assess viability. Meanwhile, most climate finance instruments remain structured for large-scale, capital-intensive projects—leaving SMEs to navigate high transaction costs, complex application processes, and limited technical support. As a result, there is a chronic shortage of investment-ready, bankable climate projects at the SME level.

But this narrative is not only incomplete, it is increasingly being disproven.

We have seen firsthand the ingenuity and resilience of African SMEs in addressing the climate challenges facing their markets and communities. In Kenya, solar energy companies have the potential to deliver attractive investment returns, with internal rates of return (IRR) around 15-20%. In Ghana, innovative electronic waste management businesses are fostering circular economy approaches to reduce the 129,000 tons of e-waste annually, while offering similar potential returns to investors. These are just a couple examples of a growing pipeline of promising, high-impact enterprises, as surfaced through country-led SDG Investor Maps.

Such examples challenge the assumption that local enterprises cannot deliver both climate impact and financial returns. UNDP is working to make such solutions the rule, not the exception. Building climate resilience requires more than isolated projects. It demands a systemic shift in how financial systems integrate climate considerations across all development finance.

To support this transformation, UNDP is bridging the climate finance gap for SMEs through initiatives such as SDG Pipeline Builder x PISTA: Scaling African SMEs in Climate Resilience. By sourcing and supporting promising enterprises and connecting them with capital, we are scaling local innovation into investable climate solutions that deliver results for people and planet.

SMEs represent 80% of employment and contributing more than half of Africa's GDP



This shift is already underway. Building on national pilots that enabled SME investments in sectors like health care and agritech in Nigeria and early results from the Platform for Investment Support and Technical Assistance (PISTA), UNDP is now scaling its SDG Pipeline Builder, with support from the Governments of Italy and Spain. The initiative aims to mobilize investment into SMEs driving adaptation and mitigation, particularly in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, the Republic of the Congo, Mauritania, and Senegal. By strengthening business readiness, aligning with national strategies, brokering partnerships, and building institutional capacity, UNDP is helping turn climate ambition into investable action.

Mobilizing investment at scale requires alignment of financial systems with sustainable development priorities. This need for systemic alignment was underscored at the recent Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) held in Sevilla, Spain, where the message was clear: progress for sustainable development must be rooted in partnerships, across public and private sectors, global and local levels. What resonated most was the shared determination to reimagine financial systems so that they serve climate goals and real economic needs.



ETHIOPIA

Enterprise Financing Facility (EFF)

Photo: Eric Isselee

A blended finance facility designed to expand access to capital for small and growing businesses in Ethiopia.

The Enterprise Financing Facility with a USD 100 million budget will invest in SMEs and startups directly, developed through a joint initiative involving the National Bank of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority and UNDP.

01 Why does it matter?

Many promising businesses in Ethiopia struggle to access the type of financing they need to grow. This can limit innovation, job creation and the development of new sectors. The Enterprise Financing Facility is designed to help address that gap by mobilising capital for local businesses that can contribute to innovation, job creation and long-term economic transformation. It also includes a climate dimension, with part of the facility intended to support environmentally and socially responsible businesses, including climate-oriented SMEs.

02 Who benefits?

It will benefit Ethiopian SMEs and startups, as well as local and regional fund managers investing in the country. It can also support public institutions and market actors working to strengthen Ethiopia's investment ecosystem. In the longer term, it has the potential to benefit workers, entrepreneurs and communities through stronger business growth and wider economic opportunities.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the development of the facility, including work to strengthen its climate and sustainability dimension. This includes support for the development of a green taxonomy to help ensure that part of the fund is directed toward climate-oriented SMEs and investments. UNDP is also supporting efforts to mobilise financing and strengthen the overall investment framework around the facility.

04 What stage is it at?

The facility is in an advanced setup and fundraising stage. A fund manager has already been appointed, a strong pipeline of SMEs and startups has been identified, and early support has already reached dozens of enterprises through grants and training. Regulatory work is also underway to support operations, while the fund prepares for its first close.



KENYA

Giraffe Bioenergy



A bioenergy and agro-processing project in Kenya that will produce ethanol fuel from cassava grown in semi-arid areas.

By combining local farming, fuel production and support for smallholder farmers, it aims to expand access to cleaner energy while building a more resilient local value chain.

01 Why does it matter?

By producing ethanol locally, the project can help reduce dependence on more polluting fuels, cut indoor air pollution and ease pressure on forests. It also has an economic dimension, since local production can reduce fuel imports and create opportunities in farming, processing and distribution. The project is especially relevant because it links clean energy access with climate resilience and agricultural development in a drought-prone area.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit farmers and rural communities in Kilifi. It has a particular focus on supporting women smallholders through training, access to improved cassava seedlings and more reliable income opportunities. It can also create wider benefits through local job creation and stronger agricultural value chains.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical assistance to strengthen its final stages of development. This includes work on the environmental and social impact assessment, a biodiversity assessment, agricultural civil engineering drawings and support in engaging potential financiers.

04 What stage is it at?

A 300-hectare farm has already been established using improved cassava varieties, and a long-term lease for 2,000 hectares has been secured. Major studies and licenses are being finalized, debt financing has already been secured, and discussions are ongoing with potential equity investors.



KENYA

Kleen Hydro

Photo: Ian Ingalula

A 6 MW hydropower project designed to generate clean electricity from the Rupingazi River and feed it into Kenya's national grid.

The plant is intended to strengthen renewable power supply while supporting local development through a locally owned energy investment.

01 Why does it matter?

Kenya has strong renewable energy ambitions, and small hydropower can play an important role in expanding clean electricity generation. This project helps tap into that potential while supporting more reliable energy supply and reducing reliance on more polluting sources. It could also help build confidence in locally owned small-scale hydropower and encourage similar investments in the future.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit households and communities in Embu County through improved access to electricity, while also supporting Kenya's wider energy transition. It can also create broader benefits for the national grid and for the development of locally driven renewable energy projects.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical assistance aimed at strengthening its preparation and readiness for financing. This includes updating the environmental and social impact assessment, improving the financial model, carrying out a climate vulnerability assessment, and updating the technical feasibility work.

04 What stage is it at?

Major studies and licenses are already in place, and construction has begun using the developer's own funding. Discussions with potential financiers are underway, with early interest already expressed by development finance institutions and a commercial bank.



KENYA

Sustainable Biofuel Pilot
Demonstration Facility

A pilot facility designed to test how biofuel by-products can be converted into high-quality biochar using innovative oxidative-pyrolysis technology.

The initiative brings together clean energy, agricultural restoration and applied research to explore how bioenergy systems can support both lower emissions and healthier soils in Kenya.

01 Why does it matter?

Kenya has made strong progress in renewable energy, but it still depends heavily on imported fossil fuels and lacks enough local evidence on sustainable biofuel pathways. This project matters because it is meant to generate practical, Kenya-specific data on how bioenergy and soil restoration can work together. It could also help show how agricultural residues and biofuel co-products can be put to better use, supporting climate goals, rural development and future low-carbon value chains.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit Kenya's research and innovation community, especially through training and technology transfer linked to JKUAT. It can also support local industries and biofuel producers by opening up new ways to use by-products more efficiently, while helping public authorities with evidence that can inform future policy and carbon market frameworks.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the Government of Kenya and the Government of Italy during the project design phase. It is also working with partner institutions, including Politecnico di Torino and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, to help shape the project and prepare it for implementation.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently in the design phase. The concept note was approved in April 2026, and preparatory work is underway with government and academic partners.



LIBYA

50 MW Solar Power Plant

Photo: UNDP Libya

Centered on a new 50 MW solar plant in Tininai, the initiative would add renewable power capacity in Libya and support more reliable electricity supply.

Over time, it could also help demonstrate the potential for larger-scale solar investment in the country.

01 Why does it matter?

Libya's energy system remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, making renewable energy expansion both an environmental and strategic priority. This project can help strengthen energy security, support economic stability and contribute to climate goals by increasing the share of solar power in the country's electricity mix. It also creates an opportunity to demonstrate how utility-scale renewable energy can move forward in a challenging context.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit Libya's wider energy system by contributing new renewable electricity to the grid. It can also support public institutions working on the energy transition, as well as communities and businesses that depend on a more reliable and diversified power supply.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical assistance across several areas, including financial structuring and risk assessment, technical evaluations, environmental and social impact work, stakeholder engagement and capacity building, and support for investor outreach and financing mobilisation.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently in development and financing phase. Early preparation work, including the pre-feasibility study and site and grid connection surveys, has already been completed, while other key studies, permitting steps and final financing arrangements are still underway.



MAURITANIA

Projet d'Electrification Rurale des
Zones Isolées (PERZI)

Photo: UNDP Mauritania

A rural electrification programme designed to bring solar power to 200 isolated communities across Mauritania.

By combining solar mini-centres with support for local businesses and technical capacity-building, it aims to expand energy access while supporting a greener local economy.

01 Why does it matter?

Limited access to electricity remains a major barrier to development in many rural areas, affecting livelihoods, public services and economic opportunity. This programme is designed to help close that gap by bringing clean energy to underserved communities, reducing inequality in access to power and creating the conditions for more resilient local development. It also supports Mauritania's wider transition toward cleaner energy solutions.

02 Who benefits?

The programme is expected to benefit rural households and communities that currently have limited or no electricity access. It can also support local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by helping them adopt clean energy solutions, while strengthening the capacity of national and community-level actors involved in the energy transition.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the programme through technical and strategic preparation work for the scale-up phase. This includes work on the financing strategy and economic models, the development of environmental and social assessments and management plans, and the preparation of a gender action plan.

04 What stage is it at?

Feasibility studies for the 200 target localities have already been completed, and pilot sites are currently being equipped with mini-grids and solar home systems. The programme is now finalizing its technical design, environmental and social work, gender planning and business model for broader rollout.

FROM SUN TO SOCKET

How decentralized solar is changing daily life in Mauritania

Millions of sunny hours do not help if the lights still don't come on. In Mauritania, national access to electricity is about 52 percent, in rural areas it falls to just 6 percent. That gap shapes community's lives day to day; homework ends at dusk, clinics struggle to keep vaccines cold, and many households rely on diesel, kerosene, or firewood which is costly, polluting, and unreliable. To change this, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in cooperation with UNDP are launching PERZI, a rural electrification initiative that will connect 200 remote communities. Feasibility work is completed for most of the planned sites, and environmental and social studies are under way. As rollout accelerates, PERZI is expected to reach more than 300,000 people, with a strong focus on women who make up roughly 60 percent of the community.

Alongside construction, teams are training local technicians for installation and maintenance, and helping small businesses use electricity productively, so new power translates into lasting income and services.

PERZI follows a simple approach: deploying decentralized solar mini grids and solar home systems where currently there is none. For Mauritians that means reliable, affordable electricity where irrigation pumps run on schedule and cold storage protects food and supports local trade. Productive uses of energy, from milling grain to charging phones and running fridges in micro shops, help businesses grow and incomes stabilize. There is also a clear and immediate climate impact. Replacing diesel and kerosene with solar cuts greenhouse gas emissions immediately.





**More than
300,000 people
will gain
access, with
women at the
center of the
benefits.**

Photo: UNDP Mauritania



The pilot is now moving from plan to delivery, with two solar mini grids already installed within the first 37 localities, both powered by solar energy, bringing about 3 megawatts of new capacity, reaching roughly 40,000 people, the majority women, and avoiding around 2,000 tCO₂ each year. An opening ceremony held in Hodh El Chargui on September 23, 2025, marked the start of the field rollout, bringing together government, community representatives, and UNDP. Mauritania is one of the countries most exposed to climate stress in the region, faced with issues such as rising temperatures, drought, and advancing desertification. Decentralized clean power has the immense potential to make communities more resilient, keeping essential services running during heat waves and enabling safer water pumping, food storage, and communications when conditions are tough. Nationally, the initiative aligns with Mauritania's energy strategy and climate commitments, including the objective to increase the share of renewables and significantly reduce emissions by 2030.

As PERZI grows, the approach stays simple and scalable, a modular kit of mini grids and home systems installed, innovative tools to map energy access monitored across regions, and community-led site choices. In practice, that means more communities connected each year, more hours of reliable power for homes and small businesses, and a model that other regions in Mauritania and across the Sahel can adapt without starting from scratch.

This pathway is led by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in collaboration with UNDP, with support from Italy through UNDP's PISTA platform. UNDP's PISTA is supporting the governments in their goal to bring clean electricity where it matters most, and unlock better health, stronger livelihoods, and real climate gains.



MOROCCO AND SENEGAL

Cold storage project

Photo: UNDP Senegal

Built around a network cold storage facilities, this initiative aims to reduce food loss, improve food safety and strengthen the movement of perishable goods.

The first phase includes sites in Senegal and Morocco, with plans to expand further in the region over time.

01 Why does it matter?

In many agricultural markets, a large share of food is lost after harvest because proper cold storage is not available. This affects farmers' incomes, food quality, trade efficiency and wider food security. By expanding cold chain infrastructure, the project can help reduce waste, support more reliable supply chains and improve access to markets for producers, while also strengthening the distribution of perishable goods across the region.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit smallholder farmers, food producers, distributors and consumers by helping preserve the quality of perishable products and reduce post-harvest losses. It can also support wider economic activity in agriculture and trade, especially in Senegal, which plays an important regional role in food distribution.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical and strategic assistance aimed at strengthening its development and investment readiness. This includes stakeholder engagement and inclusivity work, training on SDG impact measurement and management, climate impact assessment, and support for financing mobilisation.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is advancing across a portfolio of more than five cold storage warehouses, with four currently under active development. Some sites have already been acquired or secured, while others are moving through construction planning and financing documentation, and discussions with development finance institutions are underway.

KEEPING FOOD FRESH, CUTTING EMISSIONS

Cold chain infrastructure can reduce food waste, support farmers, strengthen food security, and cut emissions.

Every year, millions of tons of food are lost before they ever reach a plate. In Morocco, as much as half of fruits and vegetables never make it to market. Farmers lose income, families face higher prices, and the climate pays the price. Food rotting in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide. It is an invisible cycle of waste that drains livelihoods and accelerates climate change.

Behind this problem is a gap most people rarely think about: cold storage. Without reliable, temperature-controlled facilities, fresh produce spoils within days, meat and dairy cannot travel long distances, and vital medicines lose their effectiveness. Cold chain infrastructure may not grab headlines, but it is one of the quiet foundations of food security and public health.

In response, a major cold storage facility is being developed near Casablanca, set to be the largest of its kind in Morocco. The project will transform two outdated warehouses into a modern, climate-smart logistics hub that, once operational, will handle up to a third of the city's cold storage capacity. By giving smallholder farmers, food producers, exporters, and even pharmaceutical distributors access to reliable, temperature-controlled storage, it will cut food loss, open stronger export markets, and ensure vaccines and medicines remain safe, and for families, it promises more affordable and reliable food on the table.



Photo: UNDP Morocco

Cold storage does more than keep food fresh. Done right, it is also a climate solution. By cutting post-harvest losses, the Casablanca project prevents huge amounts of food waste from ending up in landfills, where it would emit methane. By introducing energy-efficient insulation, renewable energy like rooftop solar, and natural refrigerants with low global warming potential, the facility will also keep its own footprint small. Early estimates suggest annual reductions of 400 to 1300 tonnes of CO2 emissions. Equally important, the project helps farmers adapt to a changing climate. In Morocco — one of the most water-stressed countries in the world — heatwaves, droughts, and erratic rainfall are putting harvests at risk and making it harder for producers to recover from shocks. Cold storage offers a critical buffer, extending the life of perishable goods and protecting incomes that might otherwise be lost overnight. With similar projects being explored in Senegal and other water-scarce contexts, the model holds strong potential for climate adaptation across the region.

Partnerships that make it possible

Transformative projects like this do not happen in isolation. The Casablanca facility is the result of collaboration between public and private partners who share a commitment to sustainable development.

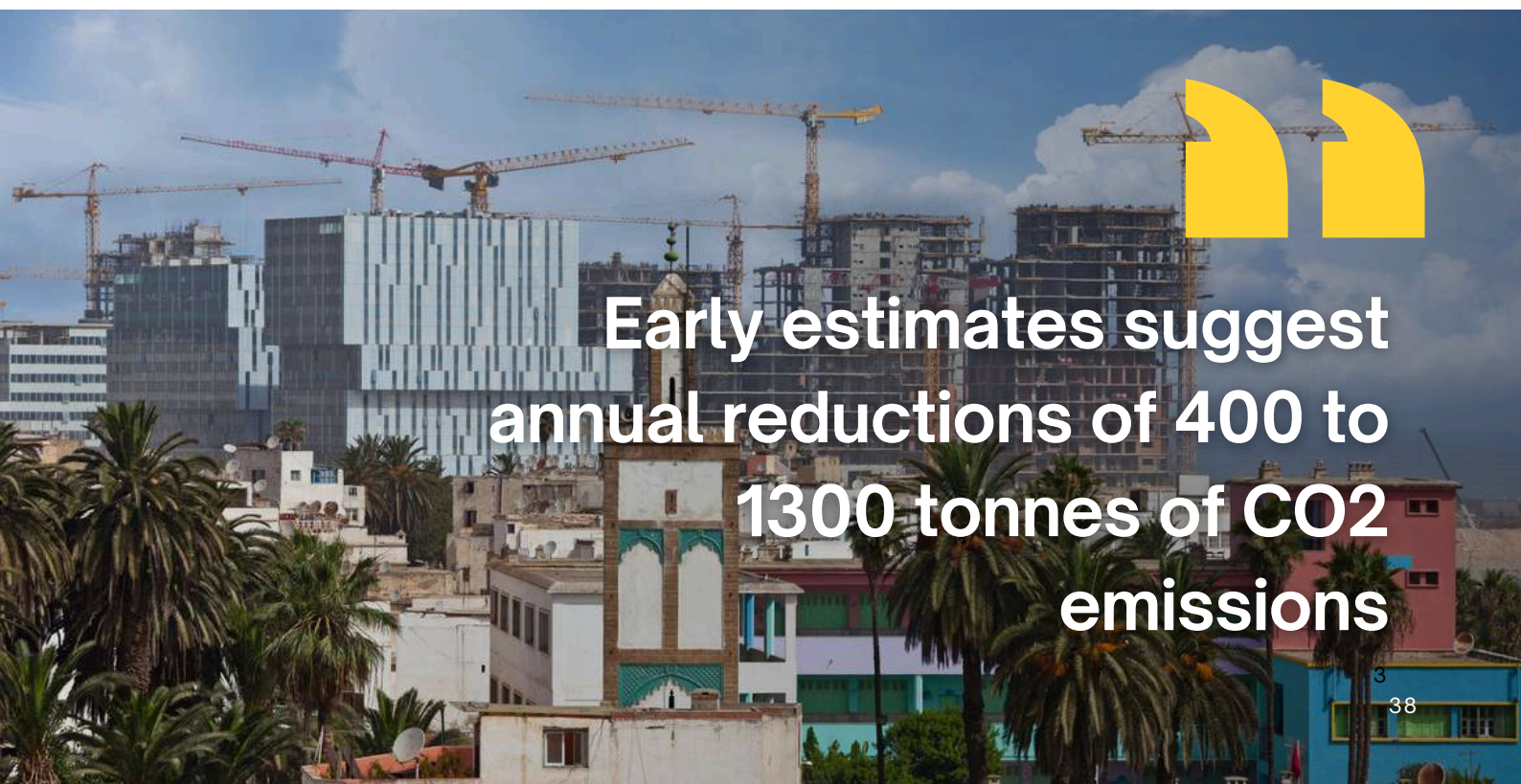
The project is developed by IFRIA Cold Chain Development, supported by the Subnational Climate Fund which is managed by Pegasus Capital Advisors. It is one of the first initiatives to benefit from PISTA, the Platform for Investment Support and Technical Assistance, hosted at UNDP's Rome Centre and funded by Italy's Ministry of Environment and Energy Security.

Through PISTA, the project is receiving technical support to strengthen its social and climate impact and attract the investment needed to scale. Italy's Ministry of Environment and Energy Security has been a key partner, ensuring the facility is not only about infrastructure, but about building a fairer and more resilient food system. In July 2025, a delegation from MASE joined UNDP in Casablanca to see the site first-hand, underscoring Italy's commitment to advancing practical climate solutions on the ground.

As Cristina Altomare, PISTA Coordinator at UNDP Rome Centre, put it: "Addressing food security in Africa requires resilient infrastructure, innovation and meaningful partnerships. The PISTA programme supports solutions like those offered by Ifria to not only reduce food loss, but also empower farmers, boost livelihoods, build resilient food systems and deliver real climate benefits."



Early estimates suggest
annual reductions of 400 to
1300 tonnes of CO2
emissions



A person wearing a yellow headwrap and a colorful patterned dress is riding a bicycle on a dirt path. The bicycle has two spare wheels mounted on the back. The background shows a dry, open landscape with a large tree and some buildings in the distance.

NIGERIA

Climate Risk-Informed Coastal Planning
and Risk Reduction for a Resilient Lagos

Designed as a climate resilience financing facility for Lagos, this initiative aims to help mobilise investment for infrastructure that can better withstand flooding, erosion and other climate-related risks.

It combines technical assistance, de-risking tools and blended finance to help turn resilience priorities into projects that can attract funding and move toward implementation.

01 Why does it matter?

Lagos faces growing pressure from coastal flooding, heavy rainfall, erosion and water-system stress, with major consequences for housing, transport, water infrastructure, livelihoods and economic activity. This initiative is intended to help the city respond more systematically by building a pipeline of resilience projects and creating the financial tools needed to support them. It is also important because it can help show how climate adaptation and urban development can be linked through more structured investment approaches.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit communities and businesses in Lagos that are exposed to climate-related risks, especially where flooding and infrastructure stress affect daily life and economic activity. It can also support public institutions responsible for urban planning and resilience, while helping create opportunities for private-sector participation in climate-resilient infrastructure.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the preparation and design of the facility, including its feasibility assessment, governance structure, financial model and resource mobilisation approach. This also includes defining the financing and de-risking instruments, identifying an initial pipeline of projects, and helping shape the investor outreach package needed to attract co-financing.

04 What stage is it at?

The initiative is currently in the preparation and design stage. Technical consultancies have been brought in to develop the feasibility work, facility manual and capital-raising plan, while stakeholder consultations are underway and an initial project pipeline is being developed.

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape. A river flows through the right side of the image. In the center-left, there is a small town with many small houses. To the right of the town, there is a large industrial complex with several large buildings. The background is a vast green field with some trees. A yellow square is positioned to the left of the main title.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Plateformes Industrielles Du
Congo (PICP)

Centered on a 2,700-hectare industrial platform in Pointe-Noire, this initiative is designed to support a more sustainable model of industrial development in the Republic of Congo.

It combines low-carbon infrastructure, cleaner logistics and more sustainable commodity value chains to help build an industrial hub with lower environmental impact.

01 **Why does it matter?**

Industrial growth can create jobs and economic opportunities, but it can also come with major environmental costs if it is not planned carefully. This project is intended to show a different model by combining industrial development with lower emissions, resource efficiency, circular economy principles and more sustainable forest and commodity value chains. It is particularly relevant in a country where timber and natural resources play an important economic role, and where greener industrialization could have wider long-term benefits.

02 **Who benefits?**

The project can benefit the Republic of Congo's wider economy by supporting industrial activity, investment and job creation. It can also benefit businesses operating in sectors such as timber, agro-industry, pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals, gas-based products and minerals, while creating wider value through improved logistics and more sustainable production systems.

03 **What is UNDP helping with?**

UNDP is supporting the project through targeted technical work linked to sustainability and inclusion. This includes a market study on sustainable timber, feasibility work related to further FSC certification, and gender analysis and action planning connected to certification and the management of additional concessions.

04 **What stage is it at?**

The project is at an advanced stage and moving toward financial close. Part of the financing has already been secured through equity and local lenders, while discussions are continuing to mobilise the remaining co-financing needed.



REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Système d'Alimentation en Eau
Potable (SAEP) DJOUE II



A major water infrastructure project designed to upgrade and expand Brazzaville's drinking water supply system.

By modernizing water abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution, it aims to improve access to safe water while strengthening the city's resilience to climate and urban growth pressures.

01 Why does it matter?

Reliable access to safe drinking water remains a major challenge in Brazzaville, where fewer than 40% of residents currently benefit from dependable service. This project matters because it addresses a core urban infrastructure gap in a rapidly growing capital, while also responding to the pressure that climate vulnerability places on water systems. It is also significant because it has been identified as a flagship initiative under the Mattei Plan for the Republic of Congo.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit more than one million residents in the project area, with more than 60,000 new household connections planned. It can also improve system resilience more broadly, creating indirect benefits for the wider population of Brazzaville through a stronger and more reliable urban water network.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is providing the technical assistance needed to deliver the full feasibility phase, with financial support from MASE. It is also managing and overseeing the overall feasibility process, including coordination, contract administration and quality assurance for all technical deliverables.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently in the feasibility phase. UNDP has contracted ACEA Infrastructure and Studio Pietrangeli to prepare the required technical studies, modelling, design work and procurement documentation needed for the next phase.

An aerial photograph of a village in Rwanda. At the top, a large building with two thatched roofs sits on a hill. Below it, terraced fields are visible on the slope. A dirt road winds through the landscape. In the foreground, a paved road curves through a village with several small houses. The background is a dense, green forested hill.

RWANDA

IZI Electric

Photo: Holam Cheung - Getty Images

Focused on electric buses and the infrastructure needed to keep them running, this initiative combines vehicle leasing, sales, charging systems and battery diagnostics in one model.

Starting in Rwanda, it aims to expand clean public transport while building the technical backbone needed for wider electric mobility adoption.

01 Why does it matter?

Rwanda still depends heavily on imported fuel, and the transport sector faces both cost and pollution challenges. This initiative matters because it can help reduce diesel use, lower transport costs and support a shift toward cleaner urban mobility. It also has wider relevance for the region, since it is building an electric transport model designed for African operating conditions rather than imported as an off-the-shelf solution.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit transport operators, passengers and businesses that depend on more efficient and affordable mobility services. It can also support national climate goals, reduce emissions and help build local technical capacity in areas such as battery diagnostics and electric vehicle servicing.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP, in collaboration with other technical assistance institutions, is supporting the project with financial mobilisation and investor outreach, grant-raising support and visibility toward development finance institutions and climate-focused investors.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is already operating, with eight electric buses deployed and Rwanda's first battery laboratory now in service. More than 10,000 electric vehicles are being serviced, over 150 leasing and sales contracts are in place, and the company is now working to secure additional financing for scale-up in Rwanda and future regional expansion.



RWANDA

Nature-positive and climate-resilient solutions for food systems in Africa

Photo: Oscar Espinosa - Getty Images

Starting in Rwanda, this initiative is designed to expand access to finance for businesses that support more resilient and sustainable food systems.

By promoting organic, regenerative and climate-smart agricultural practices, it aims to help build a stronger pipeline of enterprises that can contribute to long-term food and nutrition security.

01 Why does it matter?

Food systems across Africa are under growing pressure from climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss. This initiative matters because it explores how financing can better support businesses that are part of the solution, especially those working in agriculture, biodiversity and environmental services. It also looks at how innovative mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services and carbon credits could help unlock new sources of capital for more resilient and nature-positive food systems.

02 Who benefits?

The project is intended to benefit MSMEs working in agribusiness, biodiversity and related environmental sectors, especially those seeking to adopt climate-smart and regenerative practices. In the longer term, it can also support farmers, local food systems and communities that depend on stronger food and nutrition security.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through early-stage technical work that will help shape its design and financing approach. This includes feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, gender analysis, and support to mobilise additional funding.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently in its initial design and development phase. Early preparation work is underway to assess the market, identify suitable financing approaches and build a pipeline of businesses that could be supported.



SENEGAL

Low-Carbon Urban Mobility

Photo: @jkraft52 - Canva Community

A large-scale electric mobility initiative designed to replace 4,000 diesel taxis in Dakar with electric vehicles.

Alongside fleet electrification, it includes the development of a citywide charging network and a financing model that would help drivers move into electric taxis through lease-to-own arrangements.

01 Why does it matter?

Urban transport is a major source of pollution, fuel costs and emissions, especially in fast-growing cities. This initiative matters because it combines cleaner vehicles with the financing and charging infrastructure needed to make electric mobility work in practice, rather than as a small pilot. It could also improve driver incomes, reduce diesel dependence and create a more scalable model for low-carbon urban transport in Senegal.

02 Who benefits?

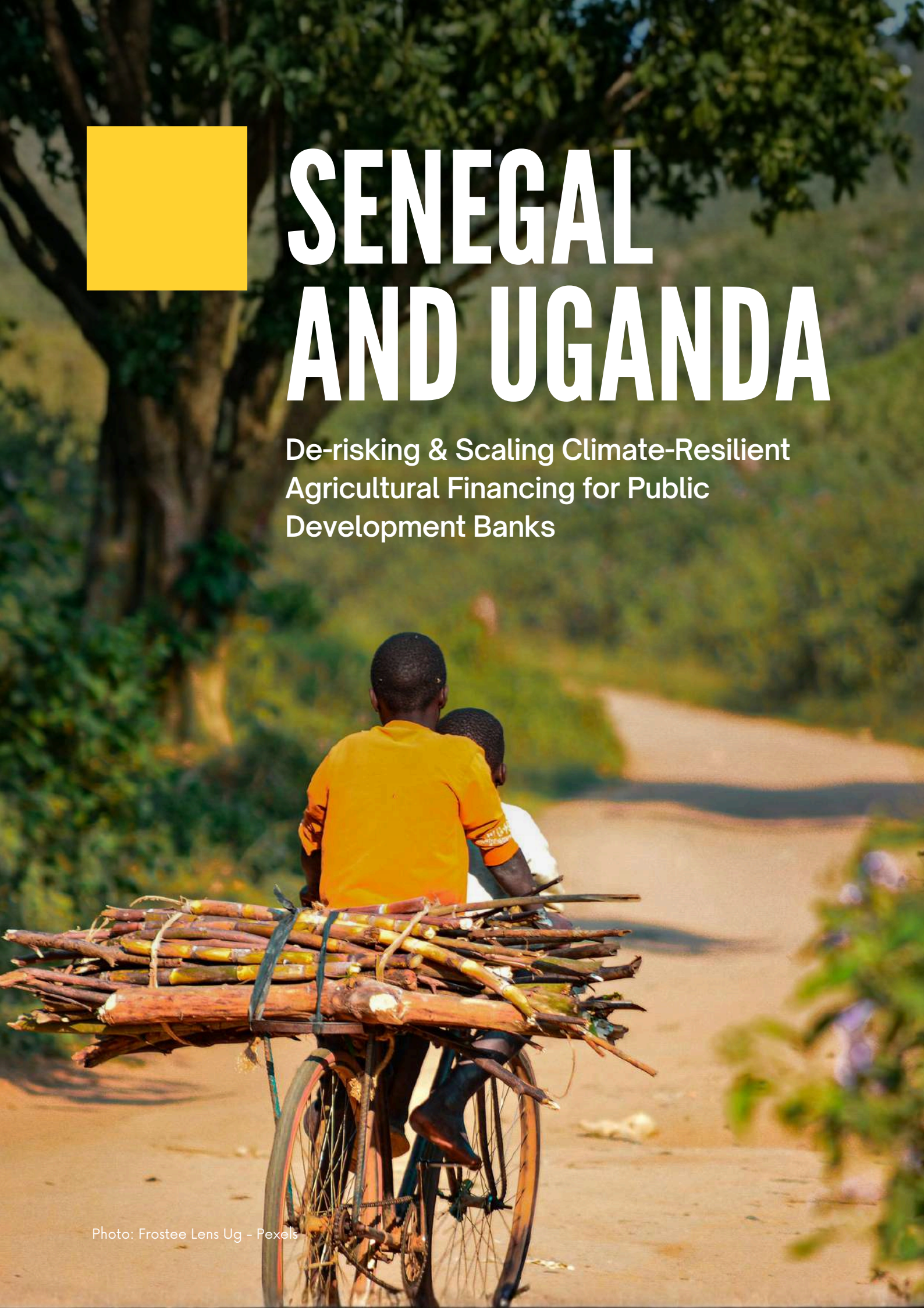
The project is expected to benefit taxi drivers through access to cleaner vehicles and more structured financing, while also improving urban mobility for passengers in Dakar. It can also support public institutions, commercial banks and private operators involved in building a more modern and lower-emission transport system.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is considering technical assistance support across several areas, including programme design and governance, charging network feasibility, financial structuring, safeguards and gender planning, the decommissioning protocol for conventional vehicles, and preparation of the investment dossier.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is at a semi-mature stage. More than 130 electric taxis are already operating in Dakar through the pilot phase, key institutional agreements are in place, and work is now focused on the financial structure and charging network design needed to move the programme toward investment readiness.

A photograph of two people, likely in Senegal or Uganda, riding a bicycle on a dirt path. The person in the front is wearing a bright orange shirt, and the person behind them is wearing a white shirt. They are carrying a large, heavy load of sugarcane stalks on the back of the bicycle. The background shows a dirt path leading into a lush, green landscape with trees and a body of water in the distance. A large yellow square is positioned to the left of the title text.

SENEGAL AND UGANDA

De-risking & Scaling Climate-Resilient
Agricultural Financing for Public
Development Banks

Designed to strengthen two public development banks, this initiative would help expand climate-resilient agricultural lending in Senegal and Uganda.

It brings together climate risk analysis, insurance-linked loan products and stronger reporting systems so that banks can finance climate-smart agriculture more effectively and at greater scale.

01 Why does it matter?

Agriculture is already under growing pressure from climate shocks, yet financing for climate-smart farming remains limited in many markets. This initiative matters because it works through public development banks that can influence lending at scale, helping reduce climate-related risk while expanding access to finance for farmers and agri-businesses. It also aims to show how stronger financial tools and better risk management can support both adaptation and longer-term agricultural resilience.

02 Who benefits?

The initiative is expected to benefit smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs by improving access to climate-smart finance. It can also strengthen the capacity of public development banks, helping them build more resilient agricultural portfolios and mobilise additional capital for the sector.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is considering technical assistance support focused on integrating climate risk analytics, co-designing insurance-linked agricultural loan products, strengthening portfolio-level impact reporting, supporting investor readiness and capital mobilisation, and facilitating peer learning through the FRA Global Platform.

04 What stage is it at?

The initiative is at an advanced stage of preparation. The technical design has already been completed, implementing partners are in place, and one of the two banks has already undergone a pre-evaluation by CDP as discussions on potential financing continue. Technical assistance implementation is expected to begin in 2026.



TANZANIA

Zanzibar Sustainable Integrated
Fisheries & Transport Investment
Initiative



Photo: Echo Interactive

Bringing together ports, roads and logistics, this initiative is designed to strengthen Zanzibar's blue economy through more climate-resilient infrastructure.

It includes two fishing ports and nearly 278 kilometres of road works intended to improve connectivity, reduce losses and support more reliable movement of goods across Unguja and Pemba.

01 Why does it matter?

Fisheries, transport and trade are closely linked in island economies, and weak infrastructure can drive up losses, costs and vulnerability to climate shocks. This project matters because it connects ports, roads, cold storage and logistics in a more integrated way, helping improve food systems, export potential and resilience at the same time. It is especially relevant for Zanzibar's blue economy, where stronger infrastructure could support both livelihoods and longer-term economic development.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit fishing communities, traders, transport users and businesses linked to Zanzibar's blue economy, including those involved in export-oriented products such as seaweed. It can also support public institutions and local communities through better connectivity, stronger infrastructure and improved resilience to climate impacts.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is considering technical assistance support to strengthen the project's investment readiness. This includes climate-resilient engineering refinement, financial structuring and blended finance design, concession structuring for port sub-components, demand analysis, ESG and safeguards work, and preparation of the broader bankability package.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is at a semi-mature stage. Climate-informed feasibility studies, preliminary environmental and social work, technical designs, cost estimates and demand forecasts have already been completed, and the Government of Zanzibar has formally endorsed the investment concept. The next key step is to complete the financial structuring needed to move the project toward financing.



TUNISIA

Bio-methanization project
in Djerba Island

Photo: y-serge Getty Images

A waste-to-energy project in Djerba designed to turn organic waste into biogas through bio-methanization.

Building on a pilot, it is intended to test a model that could later be replicated more widely in Tunisia.

01 Why does it matter?

Managing organic waste more effectively can help reduce environmental pressure while creating cleaner energy solutions at local level. This project is important because it brings together waste management, renewable energy and local capacity-building in a single pilot initiative. It is also meant to serve as a learning model, helping test business approaches, technologies and governance arrangements that could support similar projects elsewhere in the country.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit local communities and institutions in Djerba through improved waste management and the development of cleaner energy solutions. It can also support national stakeholders looking for practical models that could be adapted and scaled in other parts of Tunisia.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical and preparatory work needed to move it forward. This includes a detailed feasibility study, stakeholder mapping, risk analysis, work on governance and business models, environmental and social assessment, support for contractual arrangements, and preparation for tendering.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is in the development and financing phase. Prefeasibility studies have already been completed, part of the financing has been secured, and further work is ongoing to develop the project and mobilise the remaining resources needed for implementation.

REIMAGINING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

and how to accelerate the energy transition in Africa

The global shift from fossil fuels to cleaner, renewable sources has been underway for decades, but it has gained real urgency since the turn of the century. At its core, the energy transition is about reducing carbon emissions and avoiding the economic, environmental, and social disruptions driven by climate change. Unsurprisingly, it now sits at the centre of global political discourse and the work of international organizations committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Across the world, countries have set increasingly ambitious net-zero targets. The European Union, for example, saw its emissions peak as far back as 1990 and has since followed a steady downward trajectory, underpinned by legally binding commitments to reach net zero by 2050. In Asia, targets vary widely, reflecting different economic realities, but major economies such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Singapore have all articulated long-term decarbonization goals. These commitments are supported by national transition strategies and by Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, which outline each country's highest possible ambition to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Africa's energy transition has more in common with Asia's than Europe's. Net-zero targets across the continent are uneven, with major economies aiming for 2050 or 2060 and requiring an estimated US\$2.8 trillion in investment before 2030 to get there. South Africa has committed to net zero by 2050, while Nigeria is targeting 2060.

What unites these ambitions is a strong emphasis on renewables as the foundation for a just and inclusive transition.

This focus makes sense. Africa holds around 60 percent of the world's best solar resources and roughly 40 percent of global renewable energy potential. Yet only a fraction of this potential has been harnessed (around 1 percent for solar, 7 percent for wind, and 11 percent for hydropower). While renewables account for most new generation capacity on the continent, overall installed capacity remains low. Weak grid infrastructure, limited technical and institutional capacity, and inconsistent regulatory frameworks make it difficult to turn abundant resources into bankable, deployable projects.

Financing remains another major constraint. Clean energy projects in Africa are often perceived as high risk due to macroeconomic volatility, currency depreciation, political and regulatory uncertainty, and limited track records in some markets. As a result, developers struggle to access affordable, long-term financing. These challenges are compounded by the weak financial health of many public utilities, whose low creditworthiness and delayed payments increase counterparty risk for investors. Taken together, high perceived risk, constrained financing options, and unreliable off-takers significantly raise the cost of capital and discourage private investment, even in projects with strong demand, clear climate benefits, and high development impact.

Yet this challenge is also a major opportunity. Africa's renewable energy potential, combined with its scale of investment needs, creates space for governments, donors, project developers, and financiers to work together in new and more effective ways, driving the energy transition while creating jobs and unlocking broader economic growth.

Italy approaches this opportunity with a clear strategic lens. Through the Mattei Plan for Africa, Italy is positioning its engagement around partnerships that can translate shared priorities, energy access, industrial development, and climate resilience, into real projects on the ground. For the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE), this agenda is closely tied to accelerating clean energy deployment and strengthening the enabling conditions that make investments viable, from project preparation and technical capacity to the de-risking that helps crowd in private capital.

Working closely with the Italian government through the Mattei Plan for Africa, the Centre supports programmes with a clear mission: linking projects to finance so they can move from concept to implementation. While the centre is based in Rome, it supports and works very closely with UNDP country offices on-the-ground to ensure that programmatic goals aligned with country priorities are achieved.

Within this partnership, each partner brings something distinct to the table. UNDP contributes deep contextual knowledge of African markets, experience in project finance, and strong in-country and international networks. The Italian government provides the catalytic funding that allows these programmes to function and deliver. In turn, successful project deployment contributes both to national development outcomes, more electricity access, more jobs, better livelihoods, and to global climate goals, including emissions reduction commitments under the Mattei Plan.

This model points to a broader lesson. Partnerships that bring together donors, governments, project developers, financiers (including development finance institutions) and international organizations like UNDP are not just efficient; they are essential. Donors provide the resources to de-risk early stages, governments set priorities and create enabling environments, developers bring forward viable projects, financiers supply capital and UNDP uses its convening power to connect the dots and move projects along the pipeline.

We are already seeing the results as several projects in our pipeline are receiving technical assistance grants to reach bankability, and they show how innovative development partnerships can help accelerate Africa's energy transition.

Authors: Sunday Jerome Salami & Ömer Kavuk



Photo: UNDP Zimbabwe



UGANDA

Waste Management
Infrastructure

An integrated waste management initiative designed to improve how municipal solid waste and healthcare waste are collected, treated and managed in Masaka City.

It brings together infrastructure, policy support, digital monitoring and local capacity-building to help create a safer and more effective urban waste system.

01 Why does it matter?

Many fast-growing urban areas face rising waste volumes without the systems needed to manage them safely. This project matters because it addresses several connected problems at once, including open dumping, methane emissions, weak healthcare waste handling and limited treatment infrastructure. It also has clear public health and environmental importance, especially in a city like Masaka where waste pressures affect communities, businesses and local services directly.

02 Who benefits?

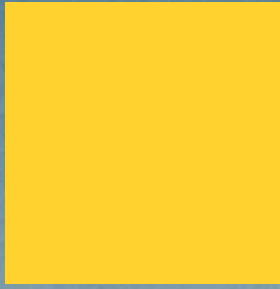
The project is expected to benefit Masaka residents, schools, markets, businesses, hospitals and hotels through better waste management services. It can also support informal waste collectors, local SMEs and healthcare workers through safer handling practices, improved services and new economic opportunities. National and local institutions are also expected to benefit from stronger systems and regulatory tools.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the Government of Uganda and the Government of Italy during the project design phase. This includes work with national and local institutions, as well as the wider public and private sector ecosystem, to prepare the technical, environmental and social studies needed for implementation.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently moving from design into early implementation. Following cooperation between Uganda and Italy under a 2023 memorandum of understanding, the implementation phase began in June 2026 with an expression of interest to identify technical firms that can carry out the feasibility study, full environmental and social impact assessment, and gender analysis.



UGANDA

GHFC Green H2 Fertilizer Project



Photo: Agami - Getty Images

At the centre of this initiative is a large-scale fertilizer plant that would use hydropower-based green hydrogen to produce ammonia in Uganda.

The aim is to build a lower-carbon domestic fertilizer supply that can reduce reliance on imports while supporting cleaner industrial development.

01 Why does it matter?

Fertilizer is essential for agricultural productivity, but many countries still depend heavily on imported products linked to fossil fuel-based production. This project matters because it could help Uganda produce a key agricultural input locally, lower the carbon footprint of fertilizer supply, and reduce costs over time for farmers. It also has wider industrial value, since it would support green manufacturing, job creation and the development of a more advanced domestic production base.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit farmers through improved access to locally produced fertilizer, as well as workers and businesses linked to Uganda's industrial and agricultural sectors. It could also create wider economic benefits through skilled employment, stronger local supply chains and reduced dependence on imported inputs.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is considering technical assistance support focused on environmental and social validation, impact alignment and responsible supply chain development. This includes support for completing the environmental and social impact assessment, validating the environmental and social action plan, strengthening SDG-aligned impact validation, reviewing the corporate social responsibility plan, and supporting ethical supply chain and farmer outreach measures.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is at an advanced development stage. A joint development agreement has already been signed with the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, key technical and environmental advisors are in place, a major market study has been completed, and off-take memorandums have already been signed for 60% of production capacity. Financing discussions are also underway with multiple development finance institutions and strategic investors.



UKRAINE

Air Quality Monitoring
Infrastructure

This initiative is designed to establish Ukraine's first National Air Quality Reference Laboratory and introduce EU-standard air quality monitoring systems.

Alongside the laboratory, it includes a pilot automated monitoring station and the quality assurance systems needed to produce reliable, traceable and standardized data.

01 Why does it matter?

Reliable air quality data is essential for protecting public health and guiding environmental policy, yet Ukraine currently lacks the infrastructure needed to monitor air pollution to EU standards. This project matters because it can help close that gap, strengthen compliance with EU requirements, and build the technical capacity needed for a modern national monitoring system. Over time, it could support better decision-making, stronger institutions and improved public health protection.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit national and local institutions responsible for environmental monitoring and regulation, as well as the wider public through better air quality data and stronger health protection. It can also support Ukraine's broader alignment with EU standards and regulatory frameworks.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Italy during the project design phase. Once approved, UNDP will also lead the implementation phase in close collaboration with national and local institutions.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is currently in the design phase. UNDP Rome and UNDP Ukraine are working with the relevant government counterparts to prepare for implementation, which is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2026.



ZAMBIA

Cooma Solar Power



Photo: UNDP Zambia

A large-scale solar energy project in southern Zambia combining solar power generation with battery storage to strengthen electricity supply.

The first phase includes a 50 MW solar PV facility and a 20 MWh battery energy storage system, with a second 50 MW solar phase planned to expand capacity further.

01 Why does it matter?

Zambia has faced severe electricity shortages and long periods of load shedding, while its energy system remains vulnerable to climate-related disruption. This project is important because it can help diversify the country's power mix, expand clean energy generation and improve energy resilience. It also responds to a very practical need, bringing additional electricity into a system under pressure and helping reduce the impact of shortages on households and businesses.

02 Who benefits?

The project is expected to benefit more than 65,000 households and businesses through increased access to electricity. It can also support Zambia's wider economy by helping strengthen the national power system and creating a more reliable foundation for productive activity.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through targeted technical assistance to strengthen its environmental, social and risk management framework. This includes upgrading the environmental and social impact assessment to IFC standards, developing a gender action plan, and helping secure a de-risking instrument.

04 What stage is it at?

Major studies and licenses are already in place, and construction for the first phase has begun. Financing for Phase 1 has been secured from local financial institutions, while discussions are ongoing with potential financiers for the second phase.



ZAMBIA

Nature-based solutions for
agropastoral resilience to
climate change

Combining ecosystem restoration with climate-smart agricultural finance, this initiative is designed to strengthen resilience in Zambia.

It links upstream restoration work with downstream economic benefits, while also creating a loan facility to help farmers invest in more climate-resilient practices in the Lunsemfwa-Mkushi catchments.

01 Why does it matter?

Climate change is putting growing pressure on water systems, land productivity and rural livelihoods. This project matters because it connects environmental restoration with practical economic incentives, helping protect landscapes while supporting more resilient farming and water use. It is also innovative in the way it brings together nature-based solutions, agricultural finance and a payment mechanism through which downstream water users can help sustain upstream restoration efforts.

02 Who benefits?

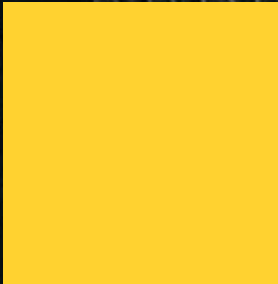
The project is expected to benefit smallholder farmers in the catchment area by improving land and water conditions and expanding access to finance for climate-resilient farming investments. It can also benefit downstream users such as hydropower operators, utilities and beverage producers through more reliable water flows and reduced sedimentation.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through technical work to strengthen both the financing and resilience components. This includes market studies on the barriers to adopting climate-resilient agriculture, analysis of demand for loan products, gender and social inclusion and youth analysis, support to link the payment for ecosystem services mechanism with the loan facility, and the development of a climate risk assessment tool for financial institutions.

04 What stage is it at?

The project is in the preparation phase. Market studies are underway with ZANACO, which is engaged as a key financial partner, and early interest has already been expressed by industrial water users that could participate in the payment for ecosystem services mechanism.



ZAMBIA

Lufubu Hydropower Project

Photo: Wolfgang Steiner

A locally owned hydropower initiative designed around a cascade of three power plants on the Lufubu River, with aggregate installed capacity of 163 MW planned in its first phase.

A second phase is intended to expand the project further and increase its contribution to Zambia's power supply.

01 Why does it matter?

Zambia's electricity demand is expected to grow sharply in the coming decades, while the country is also working to strengthen energy security, expand access, and support economic growth. This project is particularly important as it will add new generation capacity in a part of the country that is not heavily exposed to drought risk. This directly addresses one of the key weaknesses in Zambia's current power system, where heavy reliance on hydropower in drought-prone regions has led to supply shortfalls and blackouts. By diversifying generation geographically and reducing exposure to climate variability, the project will improve the resilience and reliability of the national grid. Its location also gives it wider strategic value, including supporting Zambia's ambition to play a stronger role in regional electricity trade.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit households, businesses and industries in Zambia by contributing more electricity to the national system. It can also support wider national and regional goals by strengthening energy reliability, enabling economic activity and potentially increasing power trade through the Southern African Power Pool.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is supporting the project through financing mobilisation efforts aimed at helping move it toward financial close.

04 What stage is it at?

The project has already advanced substantially, with the implementation agreement, power purchase agreement and key permits in place. An EPC contractor has been selected, environmental and social gap work is underway, and discussions with equity investors and lenders are continuing as the project moves toward financial close.



ZAMBIA

Kafue–Sesheke Solar
Projects

Two utility-scale solar plants planned to bring 120 MW of new renewable power into Zambia's electricity system.

Together, they are intended to expand clean generation capacity, support grid stability and reduce pressure on a power system that remains highly vulnerable to drought. The projects are based in Kafue District in Lusaka Province and Sesheke area in Western Province.

01 Why does it matter?

Zambia's electricity system depends heavily on hydropower, which makes it vulnerable to drought and other climate-related shocks. These solar plants can help diversify the energy mix, reduce pressure on the grid and support the country's broader electrification and climate goals. They are also important because they respond to a very immediate challenge, strengthening power supply in a system that has faced shortages and increasing strain.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit households, businesses and industries in Zambia by contributing more reliable electricity to the national system. It can also support the national utility and other power users by helping expand renewable generation capacity and reduce vulnerability to disruptions in hydropower supply.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP is supporting the project through financing mobilisation and engagement with potential lenders and development finance institutions. It is also helping with a light environmental and social gap analysis against the standards set by financial institutions, as well as facilitated access to financial advisory technical assistance.

04 What stage is it at?

The project has completed project preparation and is now in discussions with financiers, working to fulfill their requirements for evaluation. Land has been secured, feasibility studies and the environmental and social assessment have been completed and approved, the implementation agreement has been signed, grid connection discussions are well advanced, and the power purchase agreement is already in place.



ZAMBIA

SupaMoto Clean cooking
solutions and fuel distribution

A clean cooking initiative designed to replace charcoal with biomass pellets and digitally connected cooking stoves.

Built around an energy-as-a-service model, it combines fuel supply, stove distribution and digital monitoring to expand access to cleaner cooking solutions at scale.

01 Why does it matter?

Clean cooking remains one of the biggest energy and public health challenges in many countries, with heavy reliance on charcoal contributing to indoor air pollution, deforestation and household costs. This initiative matters because it offers a practical alternative that can reduce pressure on forests, improve health outcomes and support a cleaner household energy transition. It also shows how technology, distribution systems and climate finance can be combined in a more scalable business model.

02 Who benefits?

The project can benefit households that need cleaner and more affordable cooking solutions, especially in urban and peri-urban areas where charcoal use is widespread. It can also support wider environmental benefits through reduced deforestation, while creating opportunities across the fuel, stove and distribution value chain.

03 What is UNDP helping with?

UNDP Rome Centre is supporting the project through financial mobilisation, including engagement with development finance institutions and other climate-aligned financiers to help support the next stage of scale-up.

04 What stage is it at?

The business model is already proven, with more than 20,000 stoves sold and pellet production operating in Zambia. The project has secured initial financing and is in the process of completing a major carbon off take agreement, and is now moving into a larger scale-up phase in Zambia while preparing for expansion into Malawi.



Viale Guido Baccelli, 86, 00153 Roma RM

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