ALP TRADE AFRICA

ALPi INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE GROUP

AfCFTA Trade Update

BROCHURE

Q4 2025 - Q1 2026


PORTUGAL
Lisbon
SPAIN
Azores (Portugal)
Madeira Is. (Portugal)
Str. of Gibraltar
Mediterranean
Rabat
MOROCCO
Algiers
Tunis
TUNISIA
Tripoli
WESTERN SAHARA
ALGERIA
MAURITANIA
MALI
NIGER
Bamako
BURKINA FASO
AFR
Niamey
IVORY COAST
GHANA
TOGO
BENIN
NIGERIA
Abuja
Lagos
CAMEROON
0°
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE
GABON
Brazzaville
Luanda
Lobito
CONGO
15°
Kinshasa
ANGOLA

Introduction

The AfCFTA Agreement officially came into effect on January 1st, 2021. Ever since, its member states have undertaken several steps toward preparedness for increased volumes of intra-African trade.

This pamphlet identifies key trade developments across all African countries within the Q4 2025 to Q1 2026 period.

ALGERIA

Population Size - 47.4 million (estimated).

System of Government - Semi-presidential republic. The President is the head of state, with the Prime Minister as the head of government.

Ratification Status under the AfCFTA: - Ratified 23/06/2021.

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In late 2025, Algeria formally launched the Western Mining Railway Line, a 950 km rail corridor linking Béchar, Béni Abbès, Tindouf, and the Gara Djebilet iron ore deposit, as part of efforts to strengthen logistics connectivity with Mauritania and West African markets.

- The project is designed to transport iron ore and other bulk industrial cargo from the Gara Djebilet mining basin to Algeria's national rail network and northern ports, while also facilitating cross-border trade flows toward the Algerian–Mauritanian border via Tindouf.

- Once operational, the railway is expected to reduce transportation costs, increase bulk freight capacity, and strengthen Algeria's role in emerging North–West African trade corridors linking mineral production zones to export markets.

- The project will also support the development of the Tindouf Free Trade Zone, a joint initiative between Algeria and Mauritania aimed at strengthening cross-border commerce and positioning the region as a regional trade hub linking North Africa with West Africa[1].

> "The Western Mining Railway Line represents a transformative logistics corridor linking Algeria's mineral resources, northern ports, and West African markets, reinforcing the development of integrated trade routes under the AfCFTA framework."

1 Logistafrica – *Western Mining Railway Line: Algeria Opens a New Logistics Corridor to West Africa* https://logistafrica.com/en/highlights/western-mining-railway-line-algeria-opens-a-new-logistics-corridor-to-west-africa/

THE MARTYR'S MEMORIAL (MAQAM ECHAHID),
ALGIERS, ALGERIA

ANGOLA

Population size – over 39.7 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary republic presidential democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 4/11/2020

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- As of November 2025, the Lobito Corridor project (which is a commercial route that connects 3 countries, namely Zambia, the DRC and Angola) has received an estimated $6 billion, positioning the corridor as a major route for critical minerals and regional trade flows.

- Angola in December 2025 commissioned its first non-associated gas project, "the Soyo Gas Treatment Plant", producing an estimated 400 million cubic feet of LNG for Angola per day, and demonstrating rapid monetisation aligned with export demand.

- In November 2025, the President inaugurated the Mocamedes Bay Integrated Development Project in Namibe province of southern Angola. About $600 million (571 million euros) has been committed to the project by Japan.[2]

- Sonangol (Angola's state-owned oil company) signed a contract worth about $245 million for the construction of a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier with South Korea's Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries. The vessel's capacity is 174,000 cubic metres, and it's scheduled for delivery in 2028. The vessel will be used to export LNG produced in Angola to international markets.

- Angola recently drilled its first gas-only well under its National Gas Master Plan in December 2025.[3]

"The Lobito Corridor project is a vital trade route on the continent for solid minerals that are critical to the energy transition agenda of the West. The level of foreign investment in the project gives it diplomatic importance, indirectly ensuring access to peacekeeping support from foreign countries in the region, against the disruption of the supply chain along the corridor. Hospitality services will be a lucrative venture along the railway to meet the hospitality demands of crews commuting along the route."

"The Soyo Gas Treatment plant gives Angola significant autonomy and control over the supply chain of LNG sourced from its reserves. Such an arrangement creates prime conditions for indigenous or Pan-African oil and gas support servicing companies."

"The multi-modal accommodations provided by this project enable mineral terminal upgrades and containers to be linked to both road and rail networks, which diversifies port capacity from Luanda."

BAYSIDE OF LUANDA CITY, ANGOLA

2 https://www.aman-alliance.org/Home/ContentDetail/

3 https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-industry/0402-52569-angola-s-sonangol-orders-245m-lng-carrier-for-gas-exports

BENIN

Population size – over 14.7 million (estimated)

System of government – It is a multiparty democratic presidential republic.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Not ratified

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 2 August 2025, the governments of Benin and Nigeria issued a joint statement following a bilateral meeting, announcing an agreement to revitalise commercial cooperation, with a special focus on facilitating trade at the SèmèKraké border post. This represents a major turning point in economic relations between the two West African countries, as there have been tensions since Nigeria's unilateral border closures in 2019. [4]

"By revitalising cross-border trade at the border, logistics and supply chains between Benin and Nigeria can operate more efficiently. It reduces costs for import – export activities and enables traders to access new markets."

DOOR OF NO RETURN IN OUIDAH, BENIN

4 https://www.financialafrik.com/en/2025/08/02/benin-nigeria-strategic-revival-of-trade-and-customs-cooperation-at-seme-krake/

BOTSWANA

Population size – over 2.5 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary multiparty republican democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 19/2/2023

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 24 February 2026, Botswana and Zambia officially launched the Kazungula Bridge Authority at the border post in northern Botswana. The Authority will oversee the management of the one-stop border post and the bridge itself. The bridge, inaugurated in May 2021, plays a vital role in trade within the SADC region, benefitting the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and South Africa.[5]

- In December 2025, the KP Group signed an MoU with the government of Botswana to develop $4 billion in renewable energy projects. The large-scale project includes renewable energy generation, energy storage and transmission infrastructure[6].

- To diversify its economy, the government of Botswana, through the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre, entered a strategic investment cooperation framework with Sankofa Capital. The strategic focus is on infrastructure development, energy transition initiatives, mineral beneficiation and digital economy expansion. Sankofa Capital is a London-based advisory firm that specialises in structured engagements with foreign investors who seek to invest in Africa[7].

"The establishment of the bridge management authority that is trained on the requirements of the AfCFTA will be beneficial to the advancement of trade under the continental framework, and beyond the SADC's policies".

5 https://english.news.cn/africa/20260224/2f6d376363064ca2a8a3604f722e5712/c.html

6 https://yourbotswana.com/2025/12/18/kp-group-signs-mou-with-botswana-government-to-develop-4-billion-renewable-energy-projects

7 https://southernafricantimes.com/sankofa-capital-and-botswana-investment-and-trade-centre-for-malise-strategic-investment-cooperation-framework/

> "The MoU signed with Sankofa is indicative of the commitment of the government to diversify the economy from diamond mining and production to other areas to compete in global markets. This marks an important opportunity for investment in Botswana, especially as it is an emerging market."


MOHEMBO OKAVANGO BRIDGE NEAR SHAKAWE, BOTSWANA

BURKINA FASO

Population size – over 23.9 million (estimated)

System of government – Military junta

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 29/5/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The President of Burkina Faso announced the elimination of visa fees for all African visitors. This initiative aims to strengthen regional integration, boost trade, and attract more tourism. Travellers still complete a streamlined online visa application, but with the absence of fees, visiting Burkina Faso has become much more accessible for Africans seeking business or leisure opportunities.[8]

8 https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/burkina-faso-leads-africas-visa-free-movement-for-african-citizens-a-new-era-of-intra-continental-travel/

"These changes aim to increase mobility for Africans across the continent, encouraging more cross-border trade, boosting tourism, and improving diplomatic relations between nations. Easing visa restrictions supports the African Union's objective of integrating the economies of Africa, making it easier for people to travel for business, education, and leisure."

CATHÉDRALE DE OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

BURUNDI

Population size – over 14.6 million (estimated)

System of government – Multi-party Presidential republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 26/08/2021

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In January 2026, Burundi launched the Uvinza-Musongati (Tanzania-Burundi Standard Ganuge) Railway project and conducted a technical inspection to determine the planned stations along the route. The railway will stretch from the Malagarazi border area of Tanzania through to Rutana to Musongati near the nickel exploitation site, and another in

Giharo.[9] This project is a product of a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Tanzania and Burundi in January 2022.

- In June 2025, the President inaugurated the Jiji hydroelectric power plant. With the Mulembwe plant approaching completion, the two plants will have an installed capacity of 49.5 megawatts, providing electricity for 15,000 households, 7,000 businesses and 1700 industrial facilities.[10] In addition to the Kabu 16 Hydroelectric Power Station and the Akanyaru Multipurpose Dam, there is an expected increase in the overall power output for the country.

"The standard gauge project, upon completion will facilitate the free movement of people within the East-African region."

"The overall energy output for the country upon the inauguration of the Jiji hydroelectric facility will improve the country's opportunities for industrialisation."

AFRICAN DRUMMERS PLAYING AND DANCING, BUJUMBURA - APRIL 24, 2010

9 https://www.facebook.com/andikamagazine/posts/on-january-9-2026-the-uvinzamusongati-railway-project-entered-a-decisive-phase-a/1372194898251736/

10 https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2025-252-inauguration-of-jiji-hydroelectric-power-plant-a-huge-step-towards-burundi-s-energy-self-sufficiency

CAMEROON

Population size – over 29.7 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary multiparty presidential republic with a President and a Prime Minister

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 1/12/2020

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 10 December 2025, Cameroon signed a framework agreement with China with the stated goal of raising the productivity and competitiveness of local products towards their integration into global supply chains. The progression is towards granting Cameroonian goods duty-free access to China.

- Sonamines (the National Mining Corporation of Cameroon) launched a strategy in 2025 toward formalising the structure of Cameroon's gold sector.

> "Trade route expansion creates an opportunity for increased foreign exchange liquidity. Additionally, there is increased opportunity for value creation as a by-product of developed manufacturing."


REUNIFICATION MONUMENT, CAMEROON

CAPE VERDE

Population size – approximately 0.6 million (estimated).

System of government – Unitary semi-presidential republic.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified 5 February 2022.

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- The African Development Bank Group, in partnership with the Africa Rice Centre and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), launched the REWARD–AfricaRice programme, an $8.5 million multinational initiative aimed at strengthening rice value chains across West Africa.

- The programme will run until 2029 and support 14 West African countries, including Cabo Verde, focusing on improved seed production, climate-resilient farming practices, enhanced rice processing technologies, and stronger regional coordination within the agricultural sector.

- The initiative seeks to address persistent structural challenges in the regional rice sector amid rapid population growth and urbanisation, while strengthening food security and reducing dependence on imported rice.

- The programme is projected to increase rice yields from two to seven tons per hectare and raise average farmer incomes from approximately $1,385 to $1,605 annually, while also creating up to 78,000 jobs, including around 39,000 jobs for women.

- By strengthening regional agricultural value chains and improving processing capacity, the programme is expected to boost regional trade integration and enhance food system resilience across West Africa.

> "The REWARD–AfricaRice initiative represents a major step toward strengthening climate-resilient agricultural value chains and enhancing regional food security, while supporting broader economic integration and trade development across West Africa.[11]"

CAPE VERDE HIKING TOUR ANTÃO, VICENTE & FOGO ISLANDS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Population size – over 5.6 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary semi-presidential republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 22/09/2020

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

11 Resilient Rice Value Chains: African Development Bank Group and AfricaRice launch $8.5 million REWARD Programme in 14 West African countries https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/resilient-rice-value-chains-african-development-bank-group-and-africarice-launch-85-million-reward-programme-14-west-african-countries-91031

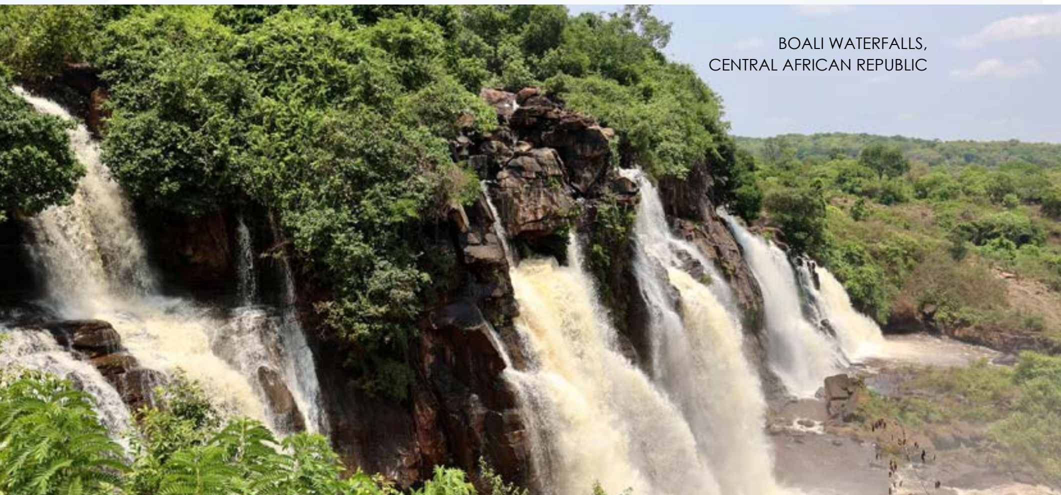
- The AfDB Group, through the African Development Fund, committed $282 million to a multi-modal transport corridor known as the Pointe-Noire-Brazzaville-Bangui-Ndjamena-Multimodal Transport Corridor Development Project. The project recently entered a new phase of development with the laying of the foundation of the Mongoumba River Port.

- As part of this project, on 18 April 2025, in the town of Mbaiki, construction work on a new 221-kilometre road that will connect Mbaiki with Gouga and the capital city of Bangui. This road is the first phase in a major international transport corridor through Central Africa, which will connect the coastal city of Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo with Ndjamena (the capital of Chad) through Brazzaville (the capital of Congo), Saotome and Bangui.

- The Central African Republic launched a large-scale program for the future by launching a multi-billion-dollar investment program that covers all sectors of the economy and regions of the country, called 'Ambition28'. A total of 543 specific projects have been defined for the period up to 2028, worth a total of USD 12.8 billion. Some of the plans include laying 3,000 kilometres of fibre optic cable, increasing the electrification rate from 4% to 38%. This plan is referred to as the National Development Plan 2024-2028.

"The project is set to improve regional trade in the Central African region significantly. There lies an opportunity for logistics businesses to operate and thrive in the area to meet the impending spike in demand."

"The National Development Plan presents an opportunity for foreign direct investment (FDI), as seen in the country's invitation to international investors at 'The Round Table' in Casablanca on 14 – 15 September 2025".



BOALI WATERFALLS,
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CHAD

Population Size - Over 21 million (estimated).

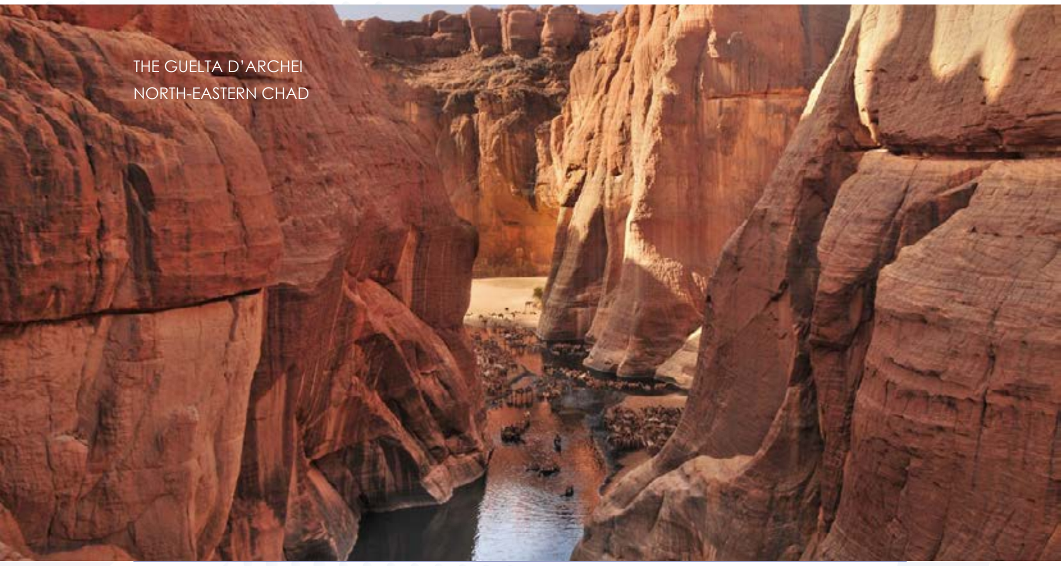
System of Government - Semi-presidential republic. The President is the head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of government.

Ratification Status under the AfCFTA: Ratified 02/07/2018.

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On the 3rd of November 2025, the Pan-African bank Ecobank and French development partner Proparco launched a €10 million trade finance guarantee for Ecobank Chad, aimed at unlocking the import of essential raw materials that drive local manufacturing and food security. By supporting the flow of commodities such as fertilisers, rice, wheat, and industrial inputs, often beyond the reach of local lenders, this initiative strengthens intra-African trade[12]

"This facilitates the cross-border import of key raw materials like fertilisers, rice, and industrial inputs. Thus, strengthening intra-African trade and creating opportunities for African suppliers, manufacturers, and logistics providers."



THE GUELTA D'ARCHEI
NORTH-EASTERN CHAD

12 https://www.gtreview.com/news/africa/ecobank-and-proparco-launch-e10mn-trade-finance-facility-in-chad

COMOROS

Population size – 880,401 (estimated)

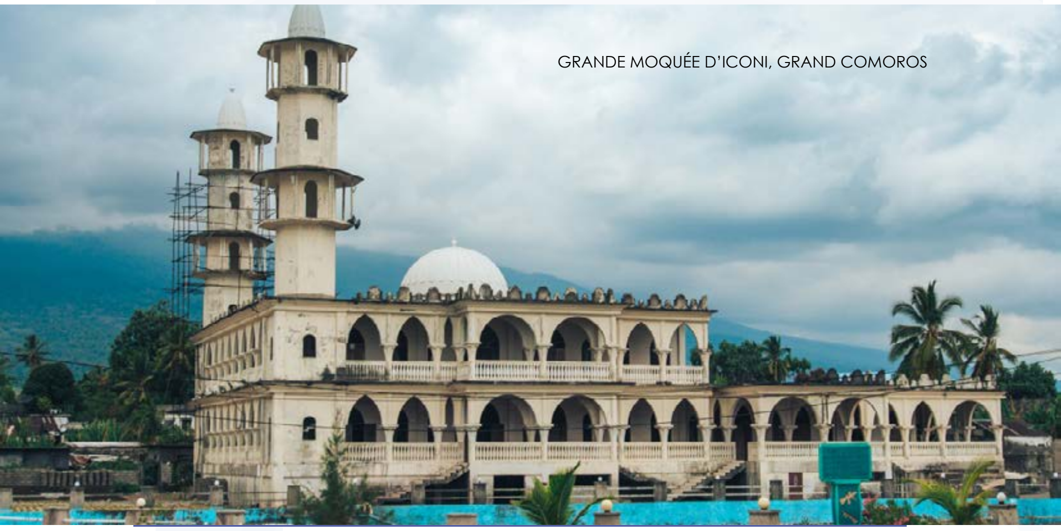
System of government – Unitary Federal Republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 19/2/2023

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 27 October 2025, in Moroni, the Union of the Comoros officially launched the Maritime Corridor and Regional Trade Facilitation Project, financed by the African Development Bank Group with $137 million. The initiative is further supported through additional funding from the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the French Development Agency, the European Union, and the European Investment Bank, with over $110 million. The project is designed to modernise port infrastructure, facilitate trade, and strengthen regional connectivity. [13]

"This initiative presents a real opportunity for regional trade. Upgrading ports supports businesses in shipping, logistics, and trade to gain access to more markets and trade across borders easily. More than just infrastructure, it positions the Comoros on the map as a key area for economic cooperation."



GRANDE MOQUÉE D'ICONI, GRAND COMOROS

13 https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/union-comoros-launch-maritime-corridor-project-supported-african-development-bank-group-tune-137-million-88185

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Population size – over 32.5 million (estimated)

System of government – It is a multiparty democratic presidential republic.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 23 November 2018

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 15 August 2025, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, stakeholders from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire met to review a draft assessment of cross-border cocoa and rice value chains, and during the meeting, they decided to expand the Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana Common Agro-Industrial Park to include additional staple crops to diversify production, improve the park's financial viability, and strengthen food security and trade.[14]

"The expansion of the Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana Common Agro-Industrial Park presents business opportunities for companies involved in processing, logistics, and distribution of staple crops. By diversifying production and creating integrated cross-border agro-industrial systems, it enables businesses to participate in regional supply chains, scale exports, and tap into growing intra-African food markets."

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL OF ABIDJAN

14 https://www.uneca.org/stories/ghana-and-côte-d'ivoire-chart-pathways-to-develop-cross-border-agri-cultural-value-chains-and?

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Population size – over 115 million (estimated)

System of government – Semi-presidential republic. The President is the head of state, while the Prime Minister is the head of government

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - 23/02/2022

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The government embarked on an infrastructure development project with a projected cost of $177.16 million. The project is set to be financed by the Congolese government and the African Development Bank Group, which approved a $159.50 million loan in December 2025, through its board of directors. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is to improve the infrastructural capacity of the Ngandajika Agro-Industrial Park to improve the region's accessibility to trade.

- In November 2025, Abu Dhabi-based port operator AD Ports announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to develop and operate a multi-purpose terminal at Matadi port, with the focus of easing logistics bottlenecks and supporting rising trade volumes.

- In January 2026, the government announced the launch of a $25 million construction project for an infrastructure hub. It is the first step in what the government calls an "infrastructure crusade"- a wide-range of programs aimed at developing new office complexes to situate government agencies in the same area.

"It is set to directly benefit farmers, transporters and agro-industrial stakeholders in the area because it will lower logistics costs and improve access to markets. This will be particularly beneficial to the implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, in the region."

"The MoU improves access to trade along the Lobito Corridor through the construction of two dry ports and road connections between Kolwezi to Dilolo, the DRC to Angola and to Zambia. Rare earth minerals are at the forefront of tradeable items passing through this trade route and remain a potential source of revenue for the respective countries involved under the AfCFTA. However, the nature of the negotiations under these agreements will determine how mutually beneficial this infrastructural arrangement will be."

"The step to situate government agencies responsible for construction will reduce the red tape involved in construction projects. This move by the government further indicates a strong government commitment to infrastructural growth and development. Of which the AfCFTA will benefit from, as trade increases within the region."

NORD-KIVU, RD CONGO

DJIBOUTI

Population size – over 1.2 million (estimated)

System of government – Republic semi-presidential democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 11/2/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda signed an agreement to establish the Djibouti-Ethiopia-South Sudan-Uganda (DESSU) Corridor Authority, a strategic initiative aimed at linking Red Sea ports with the Great Lakes region and boosting regional trade, Djibouti Ports and Free Zones.

- The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group approved $214.47 million in financing to launch the second phase of the South Sudan-Ethiopia-Djibouti Transport Corridor Project.

- In February 2026, Ethiopia and Djibouti agreed to connect key ports to the Addis Ababa–Djibouti Railway, improving the efficiency of the trade corridor linking the two countries. The railway, about 756 km long, is the main route used by Ethiopia for imports and exports through Djibouti.

"The establishment of the Djibouti-Ethiopia-South Sudan-Uganda (DESSU) Corridor Authority, alongside the funding and infrastructure improvements, is set to significantly transform trade in the region. Logistics support and insurance coverage will be required for business owners upon completion of this project, due to the proliferation of trade activities."

"By formally linking Red Sea ports with the Great Lakes region, the initiative will streamline logistics, reduce transport costs, and shorten delivery times for goods moving between landlocked countries like Uganda and Ethiopia and international markets."

"The integration of key ports with the Addis Ababa–Djibouti Railway further strengthens the corridor, providing Ethiopia with a more efficient, reliable route for imports and exports, which can stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and promote industrial development across the corridor countries. Overall, this development is likely to enhance East-Central Africa's position in intra-African trade and create new opportunities for regional supply chains."


ÎLE MOUCHA, DJIBOUTI

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Population size – over 1.9 million (estimated)

System of government – One-party presidential republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 22/07/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The AfDB Group, through the African Development Fund, committed $282 million to a multi-modal transport corridor known as the Pointe-Noire-Brazzaville-Bangui-Ndjamena-Multimodal Transport Corridor Development Project. The project recently entered a new phase of development with the laying of the foundation of the Mongoumba River Port.

- As part of this project, on 18 April 2025, in the town of Mbaiki, construction work on a new 221-kilometre road that will connect Mbaiki with Gouga and the capital city of Bangui commenced. This road is the first phase in a major international transport corridor through Central Africa, connecting the coastal city of Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo with Ndjamena (the capital of Chad) through Brazzaville (the capital of Congo) and Bangui.

"The Ndjamena-Multimodal Transport Corridor Development project is set to improve regional trade in the Central African region significantly. There lies an opportunity for logistics businesses to operate and thrive in the area to meet the impending spike in demand for such services."

"The National Development Plan presents an opportunity for foreign direct investment (FDI), as seen in the country's invitation to international investors at 'The Round Table' in Casablanca on 14 – 15 September 2025."

"The power to be generated from the project will boost infrastructural, economic and development, the general standard of living for its citizens."

EGYPT

Population size – over 118.4 million (estimated).

System of government – Semi-presidential republic with the President as Head of state, with the Prime Minister as Head of government

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified 8 April 2019

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In February 2026, Egypt reaffirmed its commitment to the Egypt–Libya–Chad transcontinental transport corridor during a high-level meeting in Cairo between Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and representatives of the African Union, highlighting the project as a key component of Africa's regional connectivity agenda.

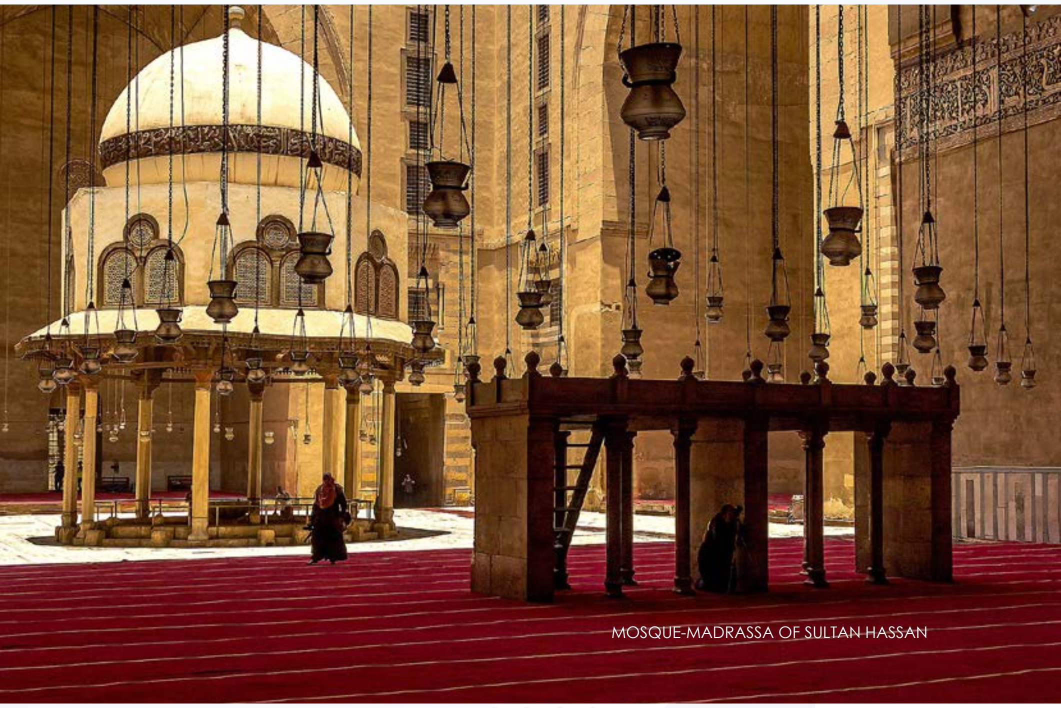
- The 2,570 km corridor, which will link Egypt to Chad through Libya, is being developed to provide landlocked Central African states with direct access to Mediterranean ports, thereby facilitating cross-border trade and strengthening continental logistics networks.

- As part of the initiative, Egypt's Ministry of Transport is advancing construction of the Egyptian section of the route (approximately 370 km from East Al-Owainat to Al-Kufra) and the Al-Kufra border crossing, which will serve as a critical gateway for commercial exchange with Chad.

- The initiative is part of wider African connectivity projects supported by Egypt, including the Cairo–Cape Town highway and the Lake Victoria–Mediterranean corridor, all of which are intended to enhance continental trade integration under the AfCFTA framework and support the African Union's Agenda 2063.

- Egyptian infrastructure firms are expected to play a key role in implementing transport and industrial projects along the corridor, while a joint technical committee between Egypt and Chad will oversee project execution, capacity building, and technical cooperation[15].

> "The Egypt–Libya–Chad corridor represents a strategic transport and trade route that will enhance connectivity between North Africa and Central Africa, providing landlocked economies with improved access to Mediterranean markets and strengthening intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework."



MOSQUE-MADRASSA OF SULTAN HASSAN

ESWATINI (SWAZILAND)

Population size – over 1.2 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary constitutional monarchy with a Parliamentary system that functions as a diarchy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 2/7/2018

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

15 The Arab Weekly – *Egypt champions economic integration across Africa with key transport links* https://thearabweekly.com/egypt-champions-economic-integration-across-africa-key-transport-links

- In Eswatini, from the 22nd to 26th September 2025, a five-day workshop was held in Ezulwini by the SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat and the World Customs Organisation, bringing together around 30 trade and customs officials. The training focused on understanding and applying AfCFTA Rules of Origin, a key step to ensure compliance and allow local businesses to benefit from preferential trade under the continental agreement, strengthening Eswatini's role in intra-African commerce.[16]

"This training equips Eswatini's trade and customs officials with a clear understanding of AfCFTA Rules of Origin, thus positioning the country as a potential market area for local businesses to meet compliance requirements and access preferential trade benefits. It also ensures that trade barriers are reduced, so local enterprises can compete more effectively in the continental market."


MLILWANE GAME SANCTUARY, ESWATINI

16 https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-strengthens-trade-capacity-eswatini-through-afcfta-rules-origin-training

ETHIOPIA

Population size – over 136 million (estimated), making it the second most populous country in Africa.

System of government – Federal parliamentary republic with the Prime Minister as the head of government, and the President as the ceremonial head of state.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 10/04/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In late 2025, the African Development Bank Group approved financing for Phase II of the South Sudan–Ethiopia–Djibouti Transport Corridor Project, a multinational initiative aimed at upgrading critical road infrastructure and improving trade connectivity between the three countries.

- The project seeks to reduce transport costs and transit delays along the Ethiopia–Djibouti trade corridor, which handles most of Ethiopia's international trade flows, while also strengthening cross-border logistics with South Sudan.

- The initiative will also address inefficiencies at key border crossings such as Galafi and Dewele, including the harmonisation of customs procedures and improvements in trade facilitation measures.

- The multinational corridor project aims to improve regional transport connectivity by upgrading road infrastructure, strengthening logistics facilities, and enhancing trade facilitation mechanisms along the corridor connecting Juba – Addis Ababa – Djibouti.

- Once implemented, the project is expected to reduce logistics costs, improve transport efficiency, and strengthen regional economic integration, enabling Ethiopia and neighbouring countries to better leverage opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)[17].

17 Multinational - South Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti Transport Corridor Project – Phase II https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/multinational-south-sudan-ethiopia-djibouti-transport-corridor-project-phase-ii

> "The corridor upgrade presents business opportunities for logistics operators, freight forwarders, transport infrastructure developers, and trade facilitation service providers seeking to support increased cargo flows between Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Djibouti."

ETHIOPIA'S DANAKIL DEPRESSION - BLUE LAVA

GABON

Population size – over 2.6 million (estimated)

System of government – A republican democratic presidential system with two Vice-Presidents who are appointed by the President.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 7/7/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The French government and the EU signed a $234 million deal to modernise Gabon's main railway. The funding package consists of a €173 million sovereign loan from the French Development Agency (AFD) and a €30 million grant from the European Union. The project aims to enhance the reliability and safety of the 648-kilometre line from Libreville to Franceville, increase the network's capacity to 16 train paths per day (eight trains in each direction), and modernise passenger stations, as well as strengthen the state railway network operator.

- In June 2025, Gabon secured over $3.2 billion in financing from Afreximbank in support of mining sector transformation, expanded energy capacity and improved transport infrastructure.

"Gabon's modernisation of the railway will facilitate trade within central Africa. Support services such as hospitality and multimodal transport alternatives are potentially a viable investment at strategic locations along the route of the railway tracks."

"Upon attaining tangible results for the transportation of the mining sector, investor confidence will be boosted and could attract more foreign direct investment (FDI).

PARC DE LA LEKEDI, GABON

GHANA

Population size – over 34.9 million (estimated)

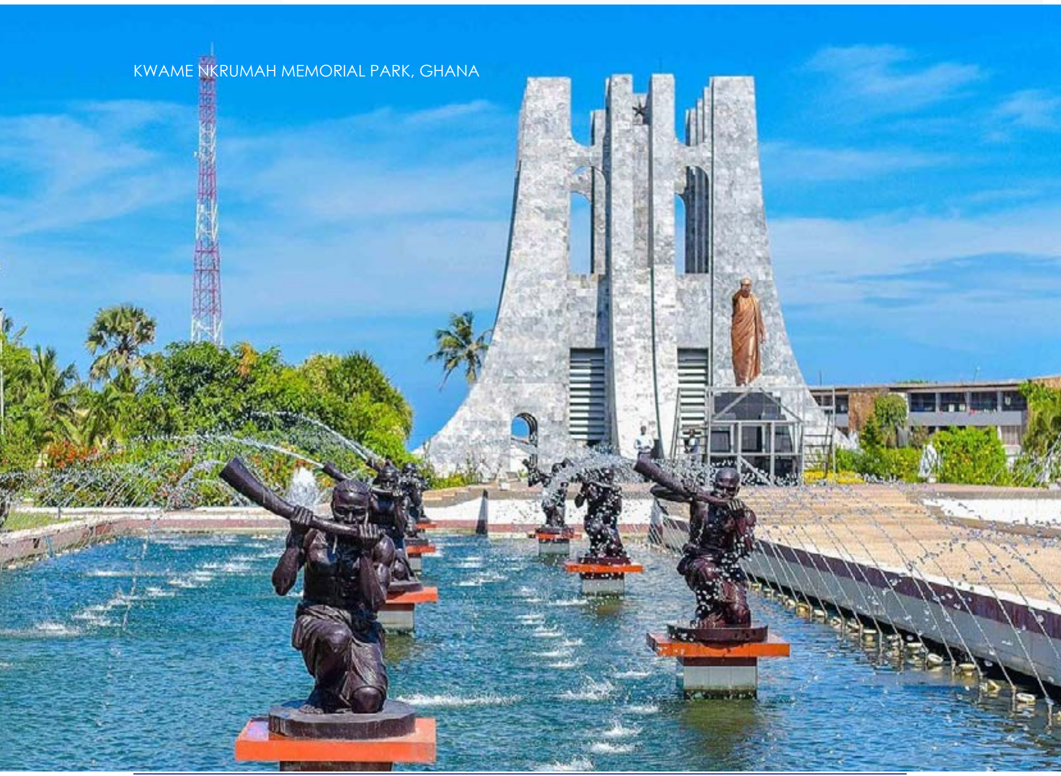
System of government – Multiparty republic with a President and Vice-President.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 10/5/2018

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The African Development Bank has signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Ghana to support the development of the Volta Economic Corridor under the country's 24-Hour Economy and Accelerated Export Development Programme (24H+). The initiative aims to transform Lake Volta into a key multimodal transport corridor to support agricultural and industrial expansion while strengthening cross-border trade with neighbouring landlocked countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Under the agreement, the 24H+ Secretariat will coordinate the project's implementation, while the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund will lead infrastructure investment through the creation of Special Purpose Vehicles focused on inland water transport and port infrastructure, agro-ecological parks and irrigation systems, and lakeside industrial parks and logistics zones.[18]

"The project presents major business opportunities across transport, agriculture, logistics, and industrial development. By transforming Lake Volta into a multimodal transport corridor, the project will strengthen trade links between Ghana and neighbouring landlocked markets such as Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, creating new commercial routes for goods and services. The planned investment is expected to stimulate private sector participation. Improved infrastructure and logistics will also lower trade costs, expand export capacity, and position Ghana as a key regional hub for agricultural value chains and cross-border trade in West Africa."


KWAME NKRUMAH MEMORIAL PARK, GHANA

18 https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/ghana-and-african-development-bank-sign-landmark-deal-develop-volta-economic-corridor-85167?

GUINEA

Population size – over 15 million (estimated)

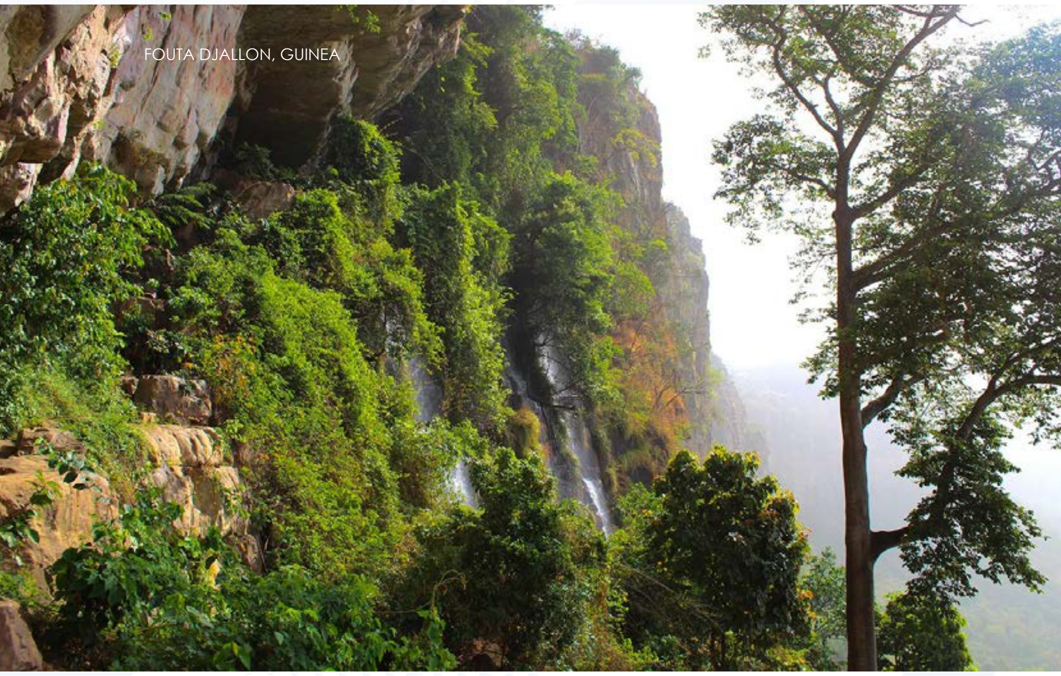
System of government – Constitutional Republic with a unitary system of government.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified 16 October 2018

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Guinea and the Ivory Coast agreed to deepen cooperation in mining, energy, and transport. The two countries plan to improve cross-border infrastructure, including the Lola Road and the San-Pédro–Mont Nimba railway, to ease the movement of goods. [19]

"The cooperation between Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire boosts intra-African trade by improving infrastructure for transportation between the two countries. This makes it easier to move goods across borders and creates opportunities for businesses in the mining, energy, and logistics industries.


FOUTA DJALLON, GUINEA

19 https://energycapitalpower.com/ivory-coast-guinea-conakry-to-strengthen-trade-cooperation

GUINEA-BISSAU

Population size – over 2.2 million (estimated)

System of government – Democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 27/9/2022

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 16 April 2025, the World Bank approved a grant of $4 million to supplement the country's population and housing census, bringing the total financing to $10 million. This support is part of the Harmonising and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa (HISWACA) initiative. [20]

- On 9 September 2025, the government signed a security cooperation agreement with Gambia to combat common threats within the sub-region.[21]

> "The security pact opens up new business opportunities by making the West African sub-regions a safer and more reliable place for trade and investment. With smoother cross-border operations and the government's support on security, businesses can confidently expand, explore new markets, and grow their operations across borders."

FORT SÃO JOSÉ DA AMURA, GUINEA-BISSAU

20 https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/03/31/world-bank-provides-additional-financing-of-us-4-million-to-support-guinea-bissau-first-digital-census

21 Guinea-Bissau, Gambia sign security cooperation agreement-Xinhua

KENYA

Population size – approximately 55 million (estimated).

System of government – Presidential republic.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified (2018).

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- Intra-African trade has continued to expand, reaching an estimated KSH 288 trillion (approximately US $220 billion), reflecting growing momentum in regional commerce even as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) continues to face delays in full implementation.

- Recent trade reports indicate that intra-African trade rebounded by approximately 12.4% in 2024, following a contraction in 2023, signalling renewed confidence among African economies in regional markets.

- Kenya remains a key participant in AfCFTA implementation initiatives, including the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative, under which Kenya and Ethiopia have begun formal cross-border trade transactions involving agricultural and manufactured goods such as meat, coffee, and edible oils.

- The initiative represents one of the early operational examples of AfCFTA trade beyond pilot frameworks, demonstrating how participating countries are beginning to utilise the continental agreement to facilitate trade flows.

- Despite this progress, analysts note that Africa's intra-regional trade currently accounts for only about 15–18% of total trade, significantly lower than levels in Asia and Europe, largely due to infrastructure gaps, non-tariff barriers, currency fragmentation, and delays in harmonising customs procedures across member states.

- To address these challenges, continental initiatives such as the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS) and investments in multimodal transport corridors and digital trade infrastructure are being promoted to reduce transaction costs and improve cross-border logistics.[22].

> "Kenya's participation in initiatives such as the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative reflects the country's growing role in advancing intra-African commerce, even as broader structural and implementation challenges continue to shape the pace of continental trade integration."


MOMBASA COASTAL CITY, KENYA

LESOTHO

Population size – over 2.3 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 27/11/2020

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

22 **Intra-African Trade Soars to KSh 288 Trillion but AfCFTA Rollout Lags, Deepening Integration Challenges** https://www.dawan.africa/news/intra-african-trade-soars-to-ksh-288-trillion-but-afcfta-rollout-lags-deepening-integration-challenges

- In September 2025, the government of Lesotho announced the commencement of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands water project (LHWP), which covers the construction of the Polihali Dam and a large reservoir. The project supplies water to Gauteng and uses the water delivery system to generate hydroelectricity in Lesotho. Phase I of the LHWP, completed in 2003, generated 780 million cubic metres of water per annum, and Phase II is expected to increase the water supply to 1.27 billion cubic metres per annum.[23] The project is expected to generate 21MW from hydropower and increase water royalties from South Africa, which is already a major source of government revenue.

- Phase II of the LHWP includes the construction of new roads, bridges and logistics networks associated with connecting remote mountainous regions to the national road network.

- In February 2026, Lesotho's textile industry was revived as the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) was extended for a year[24].

- In September 2025, the African Development Bank Group Board of Directors approved a $209 million Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Lesotho, toward setting out a strategy to accelerate the country's transition toward economic diversification, resilience and inclusive growth over the next five (5) years[25].

"The power generated and new infrastructure constructed under Phase II of the LHWP create conditions conducive to revenue-generating alternatives for the government through water royalties, or reduced expenditure from power importation."

"The AfDB's intervention with the diversification strategy is timely because, in conjunction with the revitalisation of AGOA, the private sector has an opportunity to pivot amidst a rapidly changing global order.

23 https://newsletter.en.creamermedia.com/article/lesotho-highlands-water-project-phase-ii-2025-09-26

24 https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/lesotho-its-textile-workers-hope-african-duty-free-deal-extension-heralds-us-2026-02-05

25 https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-board-approves-new-strategy-drive-economic-diversification-and-private-sector-led-inclusive-growth-lesotho-87080

LIBERIA

Population size – over 5.7 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary state with a multiparty democratic presidential system.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 31/7/2024

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Liberia's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has officially launched the country's National African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation Strategy, marking a major step forward in its economic transformation agenda. The strategy is designed to help Liberia fully leverage opportunities under the AfCFTA by strengthening support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), improving trade facilitation systems, diversifying exports, and enhancing the overall competitiveness of Liberian businesses within African markets.[26]

- Liberia, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire officially launched the "System Interconnected Management of Goods in Transit" (SIGMAT), a real-time electronic customs platform

26 https://www.uneca.org/stories/rolling-out-the-afcfta-strategy-in-liberia

aimed at streamlining cross-border trade. The system digitally records, tracks, and verifies all goods in transit across the three countries, allowing customs authorities to share data instantly. By improving transparency and coordination, SIGMAT helps reduce cargo diversion, combat smuggling, strengthen border security, and create a more predictable and efficient trading environment for businesses operating across their borders.[27]

"As part of the National Implementation Strategy, Liberia is introducing measures aimed at improving the ability of local businesses to participate effectively in continental trade. The strategy includes plans to establish a trade information portal that will provide businesses with easier access to market data, trade regulations, and export requirements. The strategy will also align policies and partnerships to ensure enterprises can fully utilise AfCFTA opportunities. It places a priority on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and encourages export diversification to create practical pathways for Liberian businesses to access new markets across Africa."

"Through the real-time electronic customs platform, goods in transit can now be digitally recorded, tracked, and verified across borders, thereby reducing delays, cargo diversion, and smuggling. This provides trade benefits to logistics companies, freight forwarders, exporters, and importers by lowering transaction costs and general trade risks."

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LIBERIA

27 https://liberianinvestigator.com/news/liberia-guinea-and-cote-divoire-launch-digital-trade-platform

LIBYA

Population size – over 7.4 million (estimated).

System of government – Provisional government structure.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Not yet ratified.

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In January 2026, Libya announced a $2.7 billion investment agreement to expand and modernise infrastructure at the Misurata Free Zone, one of the country's most strategic maritime trade hubs.

- The project will upgrade port infrastructure and increase container-handling capacity to approximately four million units annually, strengthening the port's role as a key logistics gateway connecting North Africa, Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Once completed, the expansion is expected to reduce logistics bottlenecks, improve cargo throughput, and support Libya's efforts to diversify trade beyond oil exports while strengthening regional supply chains.

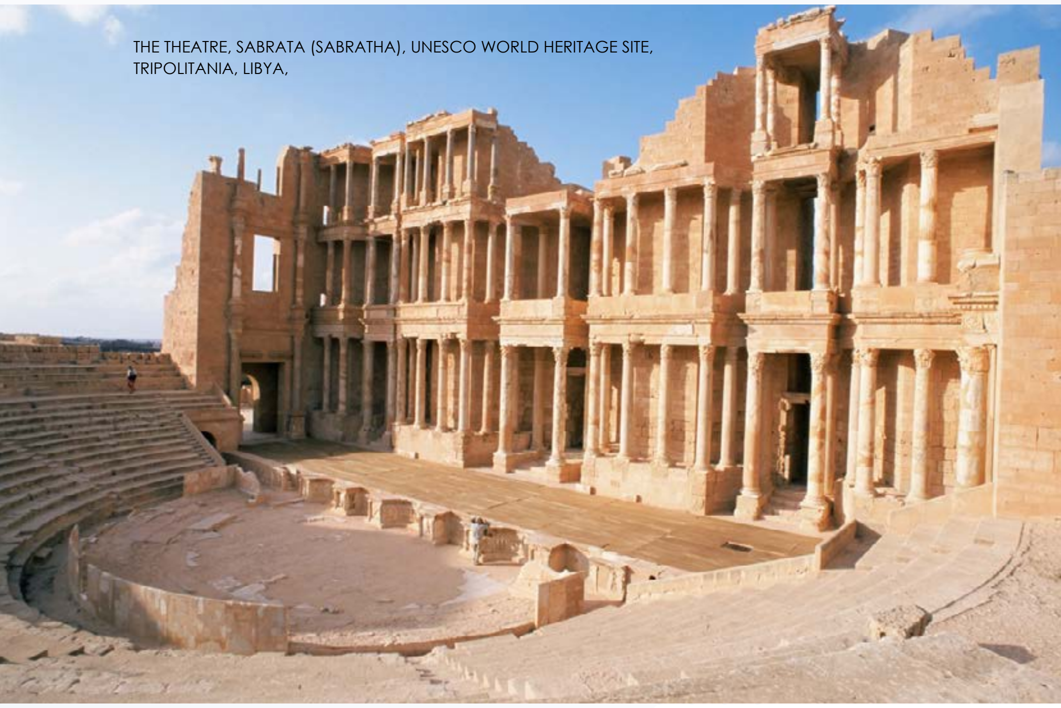
- The project is being implemented through a partnership between the Misurata Free Zone Authority, Terminal Investment Limited, and Maha Capital Partners, aimed at upgrading logistics infrastructure and enhancing container-handling capacity to approximately four million units annually.

- Authorities project the expanded port will generate approximately $500 million in annual operating revenue, create over 8,400 direct jobs and up to 60,000 indirect jobs, and reduce logistics constraints that have historically limited Libya's trade diversification.

- The investment is expected to support Libya's efforts to diversify trade beyond oil exports, strengthen commercial connectivity between Europe, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, and enhance regional supply chains through improved maritime logistics infrastructure[28].

28 Finance in Africa – *Oil-rich Libya lands $2.7bn port deal to deepen trade with Europe and Africa* https://financein-africa.com/news/libya-taps-2-7bn-to-deepen-trade/

"The expansion of the Misurata Free Zone and port infrastructure represents a strategic opportunity for Libya to strengthen maritime logistics capacity and reposition itself as a regional gateway for trade between Europe, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa."



THE THEATRE, SABRATA (SABRATHA), UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, TRIPOLITANIA, LIBYA,

MADAGASCAR

Population size – over 33.3 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary semi-presidential republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The Insurance and Social Welfare Supervisory Authority (ACAPS) of Morocco and the Banking and Financial Supervisory Commission (CSBF) of Madagascar signed an agreement on January 27, 2026, to formalise and strengthen their cooperation in the supervision of insurance and reinsurance activities.

- In January 2026, nearly 60% of the modernisation and expansion work at the Port of Toamasina had been completed. This project is strategic for Madagascar's goal of becoming a more efficient maritime hub in the Indian Ocean, capable of handling growing trade volumes.

- Madagascar is hosting the second edition of this summit in Antananarivo on 9–10 April 2026. A primary goal is to move toward a "regional common market" to strengthen economic cooperation between Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, and eight other expected participating countries. The summit aims to promote territorial know-how and improve access to markets both within and outside the Indian Ocean area.

- The Ministry of Industrialization and Private Sector Development is aggressively pursuing the "One District One Factory" (ODOF) program. This initiative seeks to reduce dependence on imports by encouraging local production in every district, thereby strengthening national productivity.

- A cooperation agreement aimed at boosting trade and encouraging investment between Tunisia and Madagascar was signed on Monday, March 10, in Antananarivo. The agreement was concluded between the Tunisia-Madagascar Chamber of Commerce (CCTM) and the Economic Development Board of Madagascar (EDBM). Through this agreement, the two institutions aim to strengthen economic relations between the two countries and offer more opportunities to Malagasy and Tunisian businesses[29].

"At the same time, infrastructure improvements like the expansion of the Port of Toamasina are expected to enhance Madagascar's trade capacity and efficiency, positioning the country as a more competitive maritime hub in the Indian Ocean."

"New economic partnerships such as the cooperation agreement between the Insurance and Social Welfare Supervisory Authority (ACAPS) and the Banking and Financial Supervisory Commission (CSBF), as well as the Tunisia–Madagascar trade agreement involving the Economic Development Board of Madagascar, strengthen financial regulation, investor confidence, and cross-African commercial ties."

29 https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Headlines/19941636-cctm-edbm-ink

"Domestic policies like the One District One Factory Program aim to reduce import dependence and stimulate local manufacturing across districts."

"Together with regional initiatives such as the upcoming Indian Ocean economic summit in Antananarivo, these measures indicate a broader shift toward regional integration, industrial diversification, and stronger domestic production to offset external trade shocks."

TSINGY DE BEMARAHA NATIONAL PARK, MADAGASCAR

MALAWI

Population size – over 22.6 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary presidential democratic republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 15/01/2021

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In January 2026, the Nacala transport corridor attained completion of phase III and issued its report for this stage of completion. This project is a multi-modal transport corridor that connects the port of Nacala (Mozambique) to Malawi through several stations and terminates in Zambia.

- In February 2026, the President announced the government's plans to revitalise road infrastructure through its Resilient and Strategic Transport Operational Enhancement Project to address climate-induced damage in the Lower Shire. Additionally, rail transportation, the completion of Likoma Port, and the rehabilitation of Chipoka Port. Civil aviation expansion is another government initiative, with the existing fleet of 3 aircraft under the country's national carrier to be increased to 10 within the next 5 years.[30]

- In May 2025, the World Bank approved a grant of over $350 million to Malawi for a hydropower project.[31]

- In January 2026, Africa GreenCo announced plans to extend its operations to Malawi as part of its target of 200 MW in renewable energy trades. For Malawi, this means guaranteed mitigated investment risks for independent power producers (IPPs).[32]

"These developments in the transportation sector will not only open up regional trade more but also establish Malawi as a regional logistics hub as a consequence of the landlocked countries it is surrounded by."

"Access to funding facilitates the required trade finance expertise and funding for the development of trade."

"Malawi's plans to revitalise transportation across land, rail, water and air, present an opportunity for service providers in infrastructure construction and management to engage the government toward procurement.

"Africa GreenCo Malawi stepping in as a guarantor will attract private sector investment in solar, wind and other renewable energy

30 https://africanpilot.africa/malawi-sets-out-2026-27-transport-programme-across-road-rail-aviation-and-lake-infrastructure

31 https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/world-bank-approves-350-million-grant-malawi-hydropower-project-2025-05-16

32 https://www.pvknowhow.com/news/africa-greenco-malawi-unique-expansion-set-for-2026

projects. Such an arrangement will increase energy security, attract investment and help Malawi meet its climate goals and foster long-term sustainable economic growth."

MUMBO ISLAND, MALAWI

MALI

Population size – Over 25.2 million (estimated)

System of government – Military junta

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 1 February 2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The government of Mali has announced a high-level economic forum with South Africa, scheduled for April 2026 in Bamako. The initiative is aimed at attracting more "productive investments" that promote local processing and industrial development, rather than continued reliance on raw material exports. To ensure effective planning and coordination, a dedicated technical committee was established within Mali's Ministry of Industry and Trade to oversee preparations for the event.[33]

33 https://apanews.net/mali-south-africa-set-april-forum-to-diversify-trade-beyond-mining

- Mali is taking strategic steps to overcome longstanding geographic and logistical challenges that have limited trade with neighbouring African countries. By developing the Senegal River corridor, Mali aims to lower transport costs, improve reliability, and create a smoother pathway for goods to move across borders. This initiative is designed to encourage cross-border trade, boost competitiveness for key commodities like gold, cotton, and agricultural products, and strengthen Mali's role in intra-African commerce.[34]

"By focusing on value-added sectors rather than raw material exports, the initiative opens concrete opportunities for businesses to establish partnerships and expand operations. Entrepreneurs and investors in textiles, pharmaceuticals, and agro-industrial processing stand to benefit directly from access to new markets, technology transfer, and collaborative ventures with South African companies."

"The initiative offers significant opportunities for exporters of gold, cotton, and agricultural products, while positioning Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, and Guinea as a strategic hub for intra-African commerce. For businesses, this corridor represents a tangible pathway to expand markets, strengthen competitiveness, and participate in a growing regional trade network."

PLACE DE LA LIBERTÉ - BAMAKO

34 https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/landlocked-mali-to-access-the-sea-through-senegal-river-in-landmark-trade-project/0x58sdq

MAURITIUS

Population size – over 1.2 million (estimated)

System of government – A parliamentary democratic republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 7/10/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The government of Mauritius is investing Rs 5.4 billion in the infrastructure of Port Louis toward the expansion of the cruise jetty, construction of a new bunker barge jetty, acquisition of tugboats and the expansion of the Mauritius Container Terminal.[35]

- The port management company, "Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd (CHCL)", is undergoing a comprehensive restructuring programme to improve operational efficiency.[36]

- In March 2026, the U.S-Africa Trade Desk (USATD) announced a major direct U.S. cotton export to Mauritius. This announcement precedes a more than 500-ton shipment of premium US. Cotton to be sourced from Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina[37].

"The expansion of Port Louis's infrastructure will accommodate higher volumes of trade and solidify Mauritius as a hub for regional trade in the Indian Ocean."

"The shipment of cotton from the US in industrial quantities is indicative of Mauritius potentially establishing itself further, as a textile hub in the region and across Africa as a whole.

35 https://edbmauritius.org/newsroom/budget-2025-2026-ease-of-doing-business#:~:text=C.&text=The%20measures%20address%20structural%20and,and%20encourages%20efficient%20cost%20recovery.

36 *Ibid*

37 https://www.tralac.org/news/article/17041-tralac-daily-news-4-march-2026.html

MAURITANIA

Population size – over 5.2 million (estimated)

System of government – Islamic unitary state with a semi-Presidential system where the elected President appoints a Prime Minister.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 11/2/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In 2025, Mauritania recorded a major milestone with the first export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) offshore LNG project, a joint development between Mauritania and Senegal operated by BP and Kosmos Energy. The project places Mauritania on the global LNG market and is expected to generate significant export revenues over the coming decade, strengthening energy trade flows within Africa and beyond.

- The government has introduced a green hydrogen regulatory framework and established a national hydrogen agency to attract large-scale investments in renewable energy and green ammonia. Several multi-billion-dollar hydrogen projects have been announced by international developers, including Chariot, CWP Global, and other foreign investors, positioning Mauritania as a potential renewable energy hub for the African and European markets.

- The 100 MW Boulenouar wind farm became operational and led to the country's first grid-connected battery energy storage system (BESS).

- There were recent upgrades to iron-ore rail logistics corridors connecting inland mining areas to export ports. These improvements enhance Mauritania's role as a strategic bridge between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa for mineral, energy, and maritime trade[38].

38 U.S. International Trade Administration – Mauritania Market Overview: https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/mauritania-market-overview

"Mauritania's emergence as an LNG exporter, combined with its push toward green hydrogen and renewable energy infrastructure, positions the country as a future energy and logistics hub capable of strengthening intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework."

CENTRAL MOSQUE IN NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA

MOROCCO

Population Size - 38.4 million (estimated).

System of Government - Constitutional monarchy with democratic principles. Executive authority is vested in the King, and the Prime Minister leads the Parliamentary government.

Ratification Status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 20/04/2022.

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In February 2026, reports indicated that Morocco continues to record stable economic growth and export diversification, with the country strengthening its position as a regional manufacturing hub through expanded automobile and phosphate exports, two of its largest export sectors.

- Morocco's industrial manufacturing ecosystem (particularly in automotive production clusters such as Tangier and Kenitra) continues to drive export growth to regional and international markets while reinforcing supply chain connectivity between North Africa, Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- These developments reflect Morocco's broader strategy of leveraging industrialisation, logistics infrastructure, and renewable energy investments to support long-term trade expansion and strengthen its participation in continental trade frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

- Tourism remains a key contributor to economic growth, with tourist arrivals projected to increase by approximately 20% in 2026, building on the nearly 20 million visitors recorded in 2025, partly driven by major sporting events such as the Africa Cup of Nations[39].

> "Morocco's continued expansion of its export-oriented manufacturing sector (particularly in automobiles and phosphates) reinforces the country's role as a strategic logistics and production hub linking North Africa with Sub-Saharan African markets under the AfCFTA framework."

KSAR AÏT BENHADDOU, MAROCCO

39 Morocco World News – *Morocco Leads North Africa in Stable Growth and Strategic Diversification (Allianz Report)* https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2026/02/279774/morocco-leads-north-africa-in-stable-growth-and-strategic-diversification-says-allianz-report/

MOZAMBIQUE

Population size – over 36.3 million (estimated)

System of government – Multiparty semi-presidential republic Democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 5/7/2023

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In January 2026, the government of Mozambique announced the restart of its LNG project activities. The project was halted in 2021 due to force majeure, which was lifted in October 2025. The first LNG is expected in 2029, as the project is currently at 40%.[40]

- Mozambique's Coral Norte FLNG project reached a final investment decision in October 2025. The project is backed by a $7.2 billion investment, and it is set to produce 3.6 MTPA, with operations set to start in 2028. Coral Notre will double Mozambique's liquefaction capacity to 7 MTPA, positioning Mozambique as Africa's third-largest LNG producer.[41]

> "In view of the recent global events and the country's unique location, Mozambique is in a prime position to benefit from the production and sale of LNG globally."

MUSEU DA ILHA DE MOCAMBIQUE

40 https://totalenergies.com/news/press-releases/mozambique-lng-announces-full-restart-all-its-activities-onshore-and-offshore

41 https://energycapitalpower.com/africas-2025-gas-milestones-set-stage-for-2026-growth

NAMIBIA

Population size – over 3.1 million (estimated)

System of government – Republic, multiparty democratic semi-presidential system with an elected President and an appointed Prime Minister.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 1/2/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In December 2025, the African Development Bank Group's Board of Directors approved a Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Namibia, committing $1.78 billion in support of economic transformation and inclusive growth in the 2025-2030 period.[42]

- In November 2025, the European Union (EU), through the Port of Rotterdam, signed a deal with the Namibian Port Authority worth $13 million for the expansion of Luderitz Port at Angra Point (Namibia). The agreement forms part of the EU-Namibia strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains and renewable hydrogen (Green hydrogen).[43]

- In late 2025, Namibia launched Africa's first green hydrogen facility at Walvis Bay.

- Following a public tender to select a green hydrogen project developer, the Namibian government is entering into an agreement with Hyphen Hydrogen Energy for a $9.4 billion project. The project is based in an area of 4,000 km2 of land within the Tsau Khaeb National Park, near the coastal town of Luderitz and will ultimately produce around 300,000 tonnes of green hydrogen per year. The project is expected to start production in 2026, and the rights to the project have been granted to Hyphen for 40 years. The cost of green hydrogen produced in Namibia will be between $1.73- $2.30

42 https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-approves-land-mark-178-billion-strategy-support-transformation-namibias-economy-and-create-jobs-89259

43 https://www.africa-press.net/namibia/all-news/eu-injects-n13-million-into-luderitz-port-expansion-plan

per kg, with exports foreseen to have started in 2025. The project is expected to create 15,000 direct jobs during the first four years of construction and further 3,000 permanent jobs, with 90% being locals.[44]

- In February 2026, the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) commenced an update of its technical regulations in anticipation of shifting economic conditions, regional integration and new trade obligations.[45]

> "The developments in green hydrogen production, along with the market projections for export and sale per kilo, are indicative of strong leadership within Africa and globally. Market dominance on the continent will continue to attract foreign investment in the sector and simultaneously provide Africa with a cleaner source of energy."

> "The port expansion project is vital to the development of strategic trade infrastructure that can be leveraged for the benefit of the AfCFTA."

TINTENPALAST WINDHOEK NAMIBIA

44 https://gh2.org/countries/namibia#:~:text=The%20project%20will%20start%20production,%2C%20with%2090%25%20being%20locals

45 https://www.namibian.com.na/standards-institution-updates-regulations-to-reflect-shifting-economic-landscape b

NIGER

Population size – over 27.7 million (estimated)

System of government – Military junta

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 19/6/2018

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The World Bank approved $400 million for the Southern Niger Connectivity and Integration Project, which is an infrastructure project which will rehabilitate the key Maradi - Zinder section of Niger's National Road 1 (RN1) and upgrade 525 km of feeder and rural roads to climate-resilient standards. [46]

- The RN1 between Maradi and Zinder is the economic backbone of the country. Together with its network of feeder roads, it serves over 16 million people in Niger and Nigeria

"This investment in Niger opens significant business opportunities by creating significant opportunities for businesses in construction services, engineering, logistics, and supply of building materials. It also seeks to ultimately improve cross-border trade and market access between Niger and Nigeria and create a wider market for practically all industries in these countries."

"The revival of the Trans-Saharan Corridor with Morocco offers opportunities to position itself as a key trade transit hub linking the Sahel to North African and global markets.

"The new 0.5% import levy to fund the three-state union also creates scope for infrastructure financing, logistics services, and local manufacturing substitution, as businesses seek to minimise import costs and capitalise on enhanced regional integration."

46 https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/05/19/the-world-bank-supports-large-scale-infrastructure-investment-in-southern-niger


BOUBOU HAMA NATIONAL MUSEUM, NIGER

NIGERIA

Population size – over 216.7 million (estimated)

System of government – Federal presidential democratic republic, with a directly elected President and Vice-president who run on a joint ticket.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – 5 December 2020

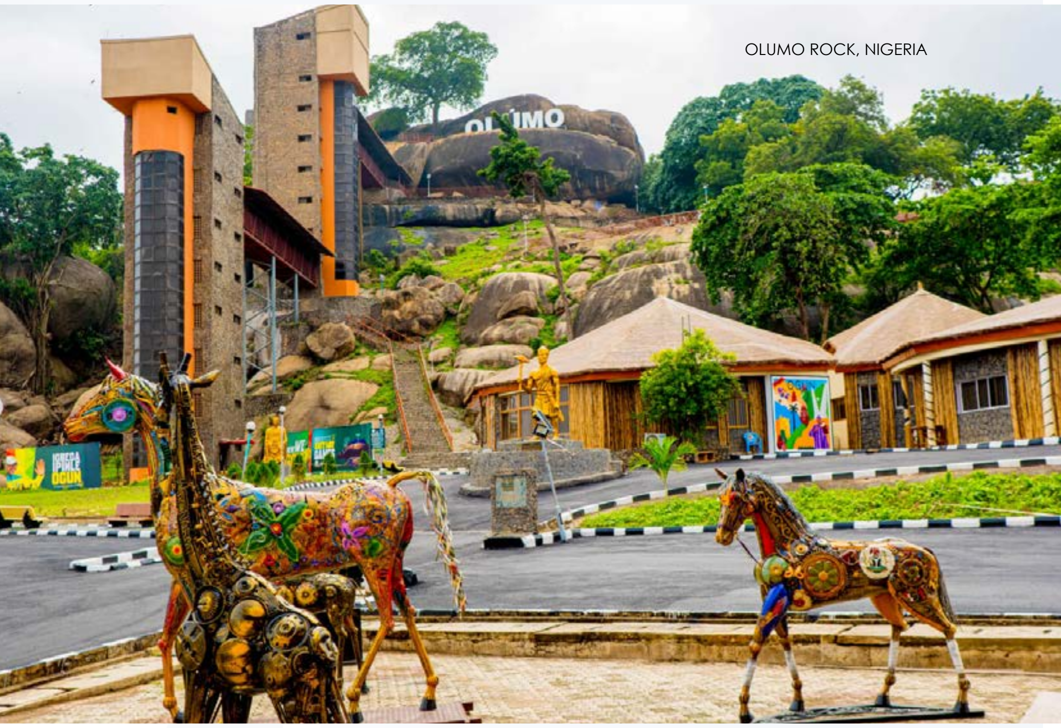
Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Nigeria and the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 13 January 2026. The Agreement introduces the elimination of tariffs on thousands of products and open access to 100 service sectors, creating strategic trade access routes for both economies. Importantly, the CEPA does not conflict with Nigeria's AfCFTA commitments and complies with the ECOWAS Common External Tariff.

- The Federal government of Nigeria announced that it had commenced operations at a high-purity gold refining plant in Lagos state and announced progress on three additional gold refineries across the country, in addition to a $600 million Lithium processing plant that is complete and ready for operation.

"Nigerian products will be driven to become more competitive to acquire market share both locally and internationally. Such market conditions drive innovation and value creation and further grant Nigerian businesses ease of access to foreign exchange through trade activities."

"Nigeria's formalised solid mineral processing infrastructure creates a secure revenue stream for the Nigerian government due to the competitive rates driven through the value addition of the processed products in the country."



OLUMO ROCK, NIGERIA

RWANDA

Population size – over 14.7 million (estimated)

System of government – One-party presidential democratic republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 26/05/2018

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The Rwandan government, through the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), has launched a new export initiative that targets faster and more reliable movement of domestically produced fruits and vegetables to regional markets. Under this new shipment, the first initiative departed on 21 January 2026 to Brazzaville (Central Africa) via direct cargo flight from Kigali with 17 tonnes of fruits and vegetables grown in Rwanda. This was executed by "RwandAir", the country's national carrier. The NAEB provides exporters with access to shared packhouse facilities for aggregation, cold storage to preserve quality, packaging services and coordinated transport to international destinations.[47]

- The Rwanda Ministry of Infrastructure signed an agreement with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) for increased collaboration in the logistics between both countries. The agreement will facilitate the establishment of a KPA liaison office in Kigali (the capital of Rwanda). Additionally, Rwanda has committed to increasing the volume of its traded goods through Kenya's port of Mombasa in 2026, due to Kenya's efficient port and last-mile logistics operations.[48]

- Within Rwanda, major road construction projects are underway, such that 800km of roads would have been constructed and rehabilitated by 2029; 300km would be dedicated to the construction of new roads, while 500km would be constructed as feeder roads to help farmers and rural residents access markets, schools and health centres.[49]

- The Rwanda Inland port & lake transport development system, while in development since 2024, has progressed significantly in 2026, such that the resulting Rubavu Port has a 700,000 ton per year capacity and a passenger capacity of 2.7 million per year. With the added capacity to accommodate two ships of up to 60 meters each, it is set to reduce transportation costs and ease cargo and passenger movement.[50]

- "The increased trade activity with Kenya through the port of Mombasa creates a conducive environment for higher regional trade volumes in the East African region.

47 https://www.logupdateafrica.com/air-cargo/rwanda-launches-air-cargo-export-initiative-for-fresh-farm-produce-

48 https://english.news.cn/20260123/bd614acd3b0f4dceb9f7335e5b9395f4/

49 https://www.ktpress.rw/2025/08/government-plans-800-kilometers-of-roads-by-2029/

50 https://www.mininfra.gov.rw/updates/news-details/rubavu-port-a-catalyst-for-trade-regional-integration-and-maritime-transport-transformation-in-rwanda

"This innovative approach opens up new trade channels for intra-African trade that are efficient. This efficient model of trade for agricultural produce offers a viable solution for the exchange of agricultural products within the continent.

"The maritime trade route provides an alternative solution for connectivity in the Central African region, for both cargo and persons."

MOUNT KARISIMBI, RWANDA

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

Population size – over 243 thousand (estimated)

System of government – Parliamentary democratic republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 27/6/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The African Development Bank Group granted $21.9 million to the government to boost its blue economy and strengthen food security.

- There is an integrated irrigation and food security infrastructure Project (PIISA-STP) undertaken to expand and modernise water retention and distribution infrastructure, because only 3% of the country's agricultural areas are irrigated. The goal is to improve the country's mobilisation of its existing water resources.

"The subsequent replenishment of Sao Tome and Principe's marine resources would prove most beneficial both domestically, regionally and internationally as a source of revenue for the economy."


CÃO GRANDE PEAK, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

SENEGAL

Population size – 18.12 million (estimated)

System of government – Multiparty republic with a President as the Head of State and a Prime Minister as the head of government, who the President appoints.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified 2 April 2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In Senegal, exports rose sharply to approximately US$1.32 billion (CFA 825.3 billion) in November 2025, marking a 155% increase from US$518 million. This growth was largely driven by higher shipments of non-monetary gold, crude oil, and refined petroleum products, with key export destinations including Mali.[51]

- At the Invest in Senegal 2025 Forum, the IFC and World Bank announced $160 million in long-term investments to advance key national projects. The funding aims to provide agricultural insurance to 200,000 farmers, 30% of whom are women[52]

"This long-term investment commitment presents opportunities for financial institutions and agro - business service providers, by providing insurance coverage to 200,000 farmers, making them more creditworthy, and enabling banks and microfinance institutions to extend loans more confidently. Increased access to finance will also boost agricultural productivity, which will in turn create additional demand for ancillary agricultural services such as fertiliser production, climate-resilient seedlings, irrigation equipment, mechanisation, storage, and logistics."

"Furthermore, the commitment that 30% of beneficiaries will be women, promotes inclusive agricultural financing and opens targeted opportunities for female-led institutions and businesses"

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE MONUMENT, SENEGAL

51 https://www.wavn.org/senegal-records-trade-surplus-in-december-2025-as-exports-surge-155/

52 https://africaclimateinsights.org/senegals-new-strategic-trajectory-3-critical-levers-to-attract-foreign-investment-and-accelerate-the-economic-and-social-recovery-plan/

SEYCHELLES

Population size – over 134 thousand (estimated).

System of government – Presidential republic.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified (May 2021).

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- The AfCFTA Secretariat has engaged with senior government officials in Seychelles to advance the country's digital trade ecosystem and digital economy under the AfCFTA framework.

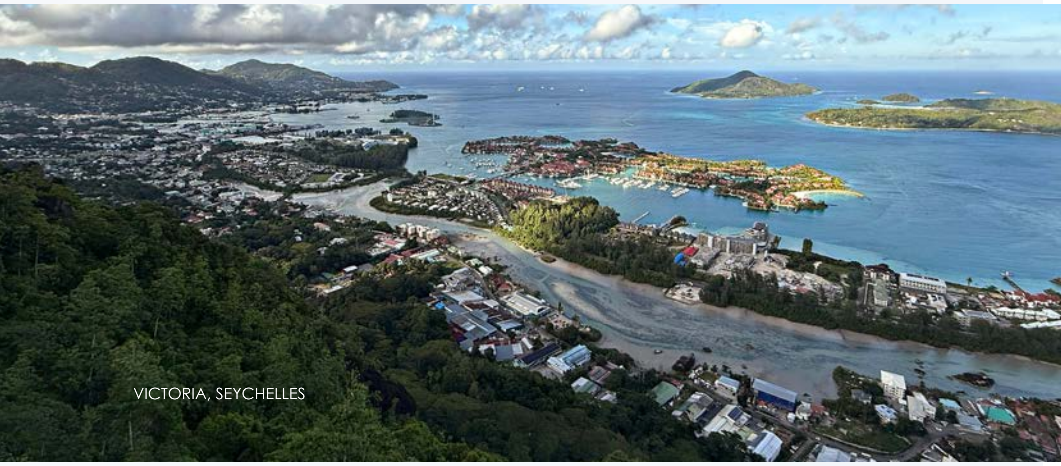
- The discussions were led by AfCFTA Secretary-General Wamkele Mene, who held meetings with the Vice President of Seychelles and the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Investment, focusing on strengthening Seychelles' participation in Africa's evolving digital trade landscape.

- A key focus of the engagements was the implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade, which aims to promote cross-border digital commerce, enhance regulatory harmonisation, and expand opportunities for businesses across the continent.

- The meetings highlighted the importance of investments in digital infrastructure, interoperable digital systems, and forward-looking policy frameworks to support the growth of digital trade and position Seychelles as a regional hub for digital innovation and services.

- Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that the digital trade ecosystem benefits micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as women- and youth-led businesses, thereby supporting inclusive economic growth.

> "Seychelles' engagement with the AfCFTA Secretariat on the implementation of the Digital Trade Protocol reflects the country's efforts to leverage digital technologies and innovation to expand its participation in intra-African trade.[53]"



VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES

SIERRA LEONE

Population size – over 8.9 million (estimated)

System of government –Unitary state with a multiparty democratic presidential system.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 30/4/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The African Development Bank Group approved a new Country Strategy Paper for Sierra Leone covering 2025-2030. It committed about $500 million over five years to support the development of sustainable infrastructure, strengthen the private sector, and support agricultural value chains to create jobs and improve food security.[54]

53 AfCFTA Secretariat engages Seychelles leadership on advancing digital trade and digital economy

https://techreviewafrica.com/news/4230/afcfta-secretariat-engages-seychelles-leadership-on-advancing-digital-trade-and-digital-economy

54 https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-approves-500-million-strategy-drive-inclusive-growth-and-economic-resilience-sierra-leone-87909?

- Nigeria and Sierra Leone have announced the signing of an Agreement to deepen cooperation on digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, talent development, digital skills, broadband infrastructure, spectrum collaboration, digital innovation and cross-border trade. To ensure effective implementation, the two countries will establish a Joint Technical Working Group to monitor progress, review ongoing initiatives, and identify future collaboration opportunities. [55]

"The Nigeria - Sierra Leone agreement opens up new avenues for services trade under the AfCFTA, especially in digital technology, AI, and innovation. It also makes it easier for professionals to work across borders, strengthening regional collaboration and business growth."

"This Country Strategy Paper creates opportunities for businesses to drive intra-African trade by enhancing the trade infrastructure and agricultural value chains in the private sector."

"The influx of trade finance gives importers and exporters access to vital credit facilities needed for the expansion of trade across borders."

SUPREME COURT OF SIERRA LEONE

55 https://techafricanews.com/2025/11/24/nigeria-and-sierra-leone-deepen-ties-with-new-mous-on-digital-innovation-and-cross-border-trade/?utm

SOUTH AFRICA

Population size – over 65 million (estimated)

System of government – Parliamentary democratic republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 10/2/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In March 2026, the World Bank agreed to give South Africa $350 million for financing as a new credit guarantee facility that is meant to unlock private financing for infrastructure, including the expansion of the power transmission grid[56].

- In March 2026 the Dutch tank storage and terminal operator Vopak pushed back a final investment decision (FID) on South Africa's first liquified natural gas terminal to 2028. The company is part of a consortium with Transnet Pipelines to build and run the Zululand Energy terminal at Richard Bay port for 25 years.[57]

- In February 2026, South African company "Zero Carbon Charge", or "Charge", rolled out fully off-grid, solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations along the country's busiest freight and passenger corridor between Johannesburg and Durban after having conducted a pilot that successfully charged a heavy-duty electric truck using solar energy exclusively. The project is a 570-kilometre highway backed by a conditional $6.2 million equity investment from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), contingent on the company building off-grid charging infrastructure every 150 Kilometres along national roads.[58]

- In October 2025, a company called Transnet announced its plans to invest $7.3 billion to modernise rail and port infrastructure in South Africa. All toward the target of 250

56 https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/world-bank-backs-south-africas-infrastructure-rollout-with-350-million-funding-2026-03-06

57 https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/vopak-delays-investment-south-african-lng-project-2028-2026-03-04

58 https://apnews.com/article/charge-ev-trucks-solar-energy-africa-e153cf76cec084b1a6c681386840b977

million tonnes of annual freight by 2030.[59]

"This AfDB–Standard Bank partnership will unlock new financing channels for MSMEs and expand intra-African trade. This provides opportunities in accessing funding, structuring cross-border transactions, and ensuring regulatory compliance across multiple African markets."

"The model infrastructure pilot and development plans of "Charge" in South Africa are indicative of the renewable energy potential of trans-African highway networks on the continent, and the climate-friendly solution they bring with it. Furthermore, due to the high energy requirement of trucks, there is an opportunity for the installation of off-grid charging stations along designated routes"

"Transnet's investment not only guarantees increased export flows, but presents a new opportunity for efficiency standards in Africa, which can be replicated across the African continent.

AERIAL VIEW SEA POINT, CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

59 https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-infrastructures/2410-49801-transnet-plans-7-3-billion-investment-to-modernise-rail-and-ports-in-south-africa

SOMALIA

Population size – approximately 18 million (estimated).

System of government – Federal parliamentary republic.

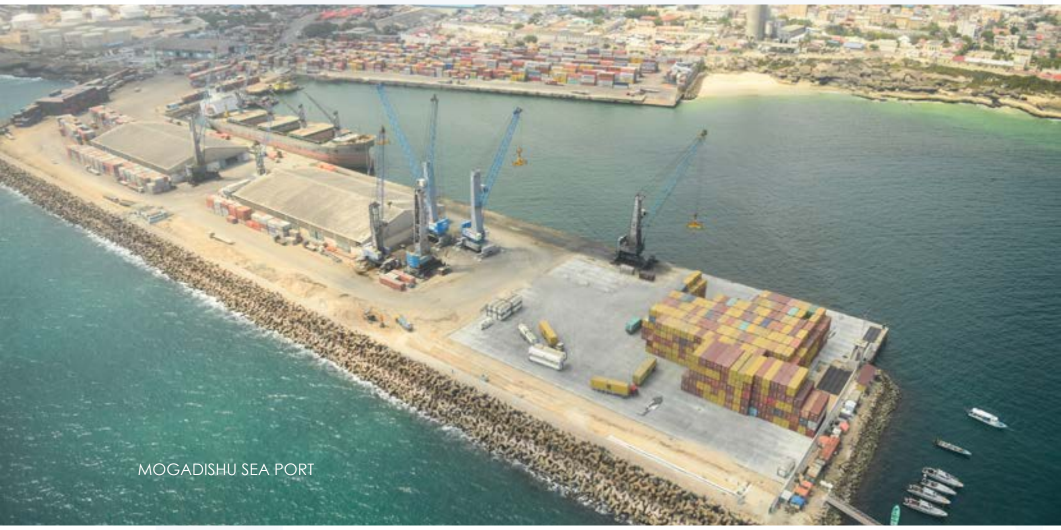
Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified (October 2025).

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In February 2026, Somalia and the AfCFTA Secretariat agreed to accelerate the implementation of AfCFTA trade protocols following Somalia's ratification of the Agreement in October 2025, making it the 50th African country to join the continental trade pact.

- The agreement followed a high-level meeting in Addis Ababa between Somalia's Minister of Commerce and Industry and the AfCFTA Secretary-General to finalise Somalia's accession process and prepare the country for operational participation in intra-African trade.[60].

"Somalia's ratification of the AfCFTA and the accelerated implementation of its trade protocols represent an important step in integrating Somali businesses into continental markets and expanding opportunities for trade diversification across Africa."



MOGADISHU SEA PORT

60 Somalia, AfCFTA Agree to Fast-Track Trade Integration https://www.dawan.africa/news/somalia-af-cfta-agree-to-fast-track-trade-integration

SOUTH SUDAN

Population size – 12.2 million (estimated).

System of government – Presidential republic.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Signed but not yet ratified.

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In February 2026, Kenya and South Sudan held bilateral trade talks in Nairobi to address transit bottlenecks affecting cargo movement along the Northern Corridor, with both countries proposing the establishment of a Joint Trade Commission to resolve non-tariff barriers, improve customs coordination, and enhance cross-border trade flows through the Port of Mombasa logistics corridor[61].

"Enhanced cooperation between Kenya and South Sudan on Northern Corridor trade facilitation is expected to improve regional logistics efficiency and expand cross-border trade, supporting broader regional economic integration."

HOLY CROSS PARISH IN YIROL, SOUTH SUDAN

61 Kenya and South Sudan Intensify Bilateral Trade Talks to Boost Northern Corridor Commerce https://www.dawan.africa/news/kenya-and-south-sudan-intensify-bilateral-trade-talks-to-boost-northern-corridor-commerce

SUDAN

Population size – over 51.7 million (estimated).

System of government – Transitional provisional government structure, with executive authority exercised by the Prime Minister and the transitional administration pending broader political stabilisation.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Not yet ratified.

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- No major trade-related projects, agreements, or infrastructure milestones were recorded within the Q4 2025 – Q1 2026 reporting period.

JEBEL BARKAL, SUDAN

THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Population Size - 6.5 million (estimated)

System of Government - Republic, semi-presidential democracy

Ratification Status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 10/2/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Originally conceived in 2007[62] As the first phase in a progressive development of infrastructure, most of Congo is a part of a multinational infrastructure project that involves a multimodal transport corridor that commences at Pointe-Noire to Brazaville (both in the Republic of Congo) to Bangui (DRC) to terminate at Ndjamena (Chad). Africa Global Logistics (AGL), through its subsidiary, "Congo Terminal," has signed an agreement worth the equivalent of €230 million for the extension of the container terminal at the port, aiming to meet growing demand from local and regional markets. While this occurred in March 2025, construction of a new 750-metre quay is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

- The Republic of Congo and the DRC, along with Africa50, will work to structure the Public Private Partnership (PPP), for the construction of a 1.575-kilometre toll bridge over the Congo River. Africa50 will provide equity for construction, along with AfDB (the principal debt provider) and the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC). The project is set to include a single railway track, two road lanes, sidewalks and border checkpoints. Construction is scheduled to commence in 2026.

"This will strengthen regional power trade across borders by improved accessibility within the region for persons, goods and services."

"The adoption of a quota-based system for the exportation of cobalt, limits creates the prime conditions for the establishment of a regulated/compliance Carbon market."

15TH OF AUGUST BRIDGE,
THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

62 https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20060251

TANZANIA

Population size – over 71.8 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary presidential republic Democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 17/1/2022

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- On 10 December 2025, the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank allocated $98 million in savings to finance the Bulmata-Uvinza Road upgrading project (Lot B) in western Tanzania. While the project costs a total of $129 million, the AfDB Group will provide $98.17 million. The project involves the upgrade of the Bulamata-Msombwe road to bitumen standard and the construction of a 250-metre bridge over the Malagarasi River; a rail overpass and connecting roads and community infrastructure, including markets, solar lighting, boreholes and parking areas.[63]

- In February 2026, Tanzania launched a $117 million fisheries and aquaculture project, funded by the World Bank, called the "Scaling-Up Sustainable Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Management" (TASFAM) project. The project is expected to increase the country's seafood output and reduce post-harvest losses in the sector. The project is expected to roll out over the next five years and increase Tanzania's aquaculture production from 40,000 metric tons to 250,000 metric tons at the end of the period.[64]

- Tanzania is part of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Central corridor, and the project is intended to enhance regional connectivity, reduce transportation costs and provide landlocked countries with efficient access to the port of Dar es Salaam and an alternative route for trade. Alongside Tanzania, the other countries on the trade route are Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC. In February 2026,

63 https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/tanzania-african-development-bank-allocates-98-million-savings-completion-road-project-will-strengthen-regional-connectivity-90452

64 https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/business-finance/tanzania-launches-usd-117-million-world-bank-funded-fisheries-aquaculture-improvement-project

the Mwanza-Isaka rail link SGR segment (341km) achieved approximately 68% completion, forming the final part of phase 1 connecting Dar es Salaam to Lake Victoria by 2028[65].

- On 10 February, the Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) restarted cross-border passenger train services between the two countries, further to its initial mandate to promote regional mobility, trade, tourism and people-to-people interaction. Long-distance international services had been suspended in June 2024 due to technical challenges.[66]

"Development of the aquaculture project will not only improve the sector's output but will further create an attractive business climate for the private sector and foreign investment in the long term."

"The SGR project is a strategic piece of infrastructure that constitutes Tanzania's broader plan to modernise its transport system and reduce the economic and environmental costs associated with road traffic, fuel expenses, travel time, accidents and emissions[67]."

"The free movement of persons between Tanzania and Zambia is an essential ingredient for the actualisation of both the regional obligations of the East African Community (EAC) and continental obligations under the African Union."

NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA, TANZANIA

65 https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-infrastructures/2502-53259-tanzania-s-mwanza-isaka-rail-link-nears-completion-at-68

66 https://www.railwaygazette.com/passenger/tazara-restarts-cross-border-passenger-services-with-in-the-realities-of-current-operating-constraints

67 *Ibid*

THE GAMBIA

Population size – over 2.6 million (estimated)

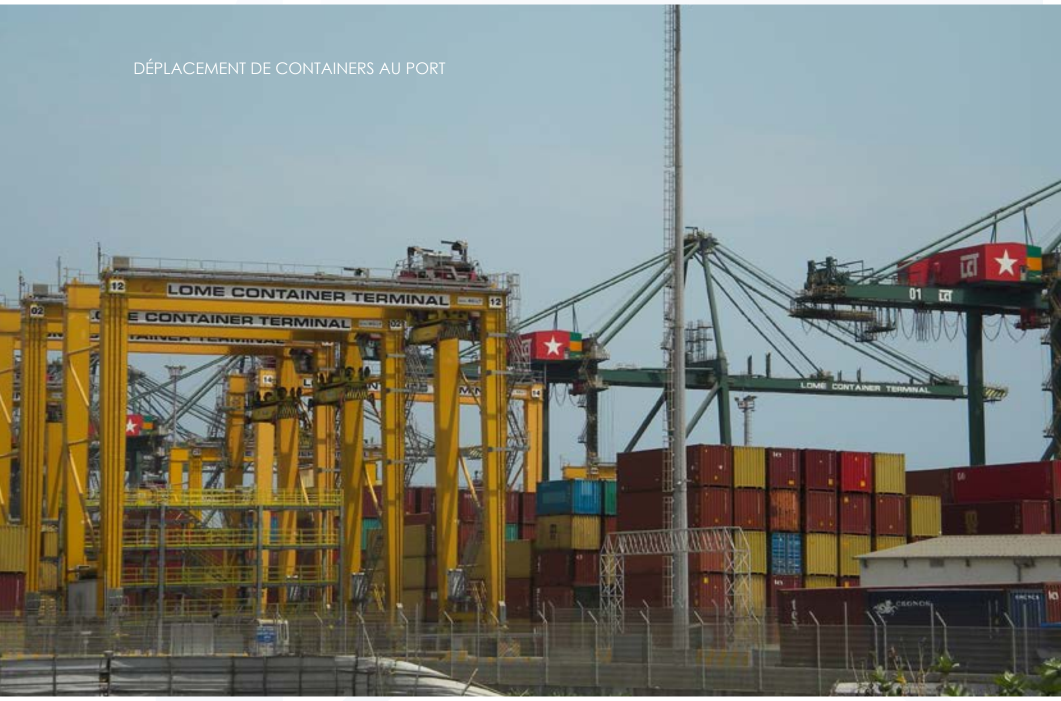
System of government – A multiparty democratic republic with a President

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 16 April 2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Between 8-9 September 2025, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau enter into an Agreement on Security Trade Cooperation.[68]

> "This elimination of trade barriers will increase trade between the two countries, and industrial development, job creation, economic growth, and the improvement of living standards of the people of both countries."



DÉPLACEMENT DE CONTAINERS AU PORT

68 https://www.africa-press.net/gambia/all-news/gambia-guinea-bissau-sign-mous-on-security-trade-co-operation

TOGO

Population size – over 9.6 million (estimated)

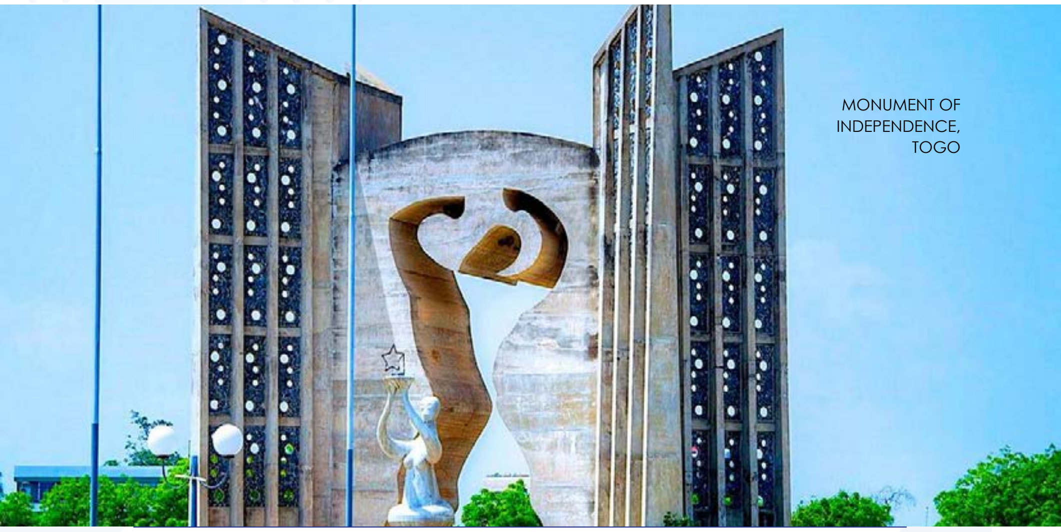
System of government – Parliamentary republic with the President as the Head of state and the Prime Minister as the Head of government.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 2/4/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In September 2025, Togo marked a significant milestone in the modernisation of the Port of Lomé with the launch of dredging works at the Lomé Container Terminal. The project is aimed at enabling the port to accommodate ultra-large container vessels of over 19,000 TEUs and up to 400 metres in length, reinforcing Togo's strategic ambition to strengthen its position as a key hub for regional and continental maritime trade. [69]

> "With increased capacity and enhanced efficiency, the port cements Togo's role as a key hub for West African maritime trade. Companies in shipping, logistics, freight forwarding, and import-export can capitalise on this upgraded infrastructure, tap into new regional markets and actively engage in the expanding network of intra-African commerce."



MONUMENT OF INDEPENDENCE, TOGO

69 https://sahellibertynews.com/2025/09/16/togo-maritime-sovereignty-asserted-through-strategic-modernization-of-the-port-of-lome/

TUNISIA

Population size – over 12.3 million (estimated).

System of government – Presidential republic. The President serves as Head of State and exercises executive authority, supported by a government responsible for implementing national policy.

Ratification status under the AfCFTA – Ratified 7 August 2020

Latest significant developments in intra-Africa trade –

- In January 2026, the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and Banque Internationale Arabe de Tunisie (BIAT) signed a $50 million Trade Finance Guarantee Facility aimed at strengthening Tunisia's trade finance ecosystem and supporting private sector participation in international trade.

- The facility will enable international banks to confirm trade finance instruments issued by BIAT, including letters of credit, thereby improving access to trade finance for Tunisian businesses and facilitating cross-border transactions.

- The initiative is expected to support imports of industrial inputs, machinery, telecommunications equipment, and renewable energy technologies, while also strengthening the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in international and intra-African trade.

- Priority sectors under the facility include agro-industry, light manufacturing, renewable energy technologies, telecommunications equipment, and industrial machinery, supporting Tunisia's broader industrialisation and supply chain development.

- The initiative aligns with the African Development Bank's 2024–2029 Country Strategy Paper for Tunisia, which prioritises economic resilience, job creation, and private sector development, while also promoting low-carbon and climate-aligned trade projects[70].

70 African Development Bank Group – *AfDB and BIAT Sign $50 Million Trade Finance Guarantee*

> "The AfDB–BIAT Trade Finance Guarantee Facility strengthens Tunisia's capacity to support exporters and importers by improving access to trade finance instruments, thereby enhancing supply chain resilience and expanding Tunisia's participation in intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework."


SIDI BOU SAID, TUNISIA

UGANDA

Population size – 45.9 million (estimated)

System of government – Multi-party Presidential republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 09/02/19

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In February 2026, Uganda joined Djibouti, Ethiopia, and South Sudan in formally establishing the DESSU Corridor Authority to coordinate a regional trade corridor linking the Red Sea ports to markets in the Great Lakes region.

Facility to Boost Tunisia's Trade https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-and-banque-internationale-arabe-de-tunisie-sign-50-million-trade-finance-guarantee-facility-boost-tunisias-trade-90683

- In March 2026, the East African Community set a June 30, 2026, deadline for partner states to remove all outstanding nontariff barriers that still hinder trade across the bloc. This directive aims to accelerate intra EAC trade by making it easier to move goods without delay, supporting deeper economic integration for Uganda and its neighbours.

- Uganda adopted infrastructure and policy reforms that strengthen regional trade, including steps toward rail network improvements and connectivity projects linked with broader EAC and AfCFTA priorities. Such developments aim to reduce transportation costs and foster economic links across Eastern and Central Africa.

- In March 2026, technical negotiations between Uganda and Tanzania were initiated to address longstanding tariff and nontariff barriers slowing trade between the two countries. These talks are part of a Joint Permanent Commission focus on harmonising customs procedures and improving logistics for traded goods, potentially boosting intraAfrican commerce between East African neighbours.

"Uganda's participation in establishing the Djibouti–Ethiopia–South Sudan–Uganda Corridor Authority (DESSU) is expected to enhance access to Red Sea ports through improved transport and logistics corridors, allowing Ugandan exports to reach wider markets more efficiently."

"At the same time, the directive issued by the East African Community (EAC) to eliminate non-tariff barriers by June 2026 could significantly reduce bureaucratic delays and costs associated with cross-border trade, making it easier for Ugandan businesses to trade within the region."

"Ongoing infrastructure improvements such as rail and transport connectivity projects aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are also likely to lower transportation costs and strengthen Uganda's integration into Eastern and Central African supply chains."

"In addition, trade negotiations with Tanzania aimed at removing tariff and non-tariff barriers will improve the movement of goods between the two countries, further boosting regional commerce and enhancing Uganda's role as a key trading partner within East Africa. Together, these initiatives contribute to a more efficient regional trading environment, expanding market opportunities for

Ugandan producers and facilitating greater intra-African economic integration."

BAHA'I HOUSE OF WORSHIP, UGANDA

WESTERN SAHARA

Population size – Over 608 thousand (estimated)

System of government – Morocco claims an estimated 85% of the territory it controls, while the remaining territory is controlled by the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 30/04/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- Morocco continues advancing its Atlantic Initiative, which aims to provide landlocked Sahel states such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger with access to Atlantic trade routes through Moroccan ports, including infrastructure in the Western Sahara region.

- In October 2025, the European Union and Morocco revised their trade agreement to allow products originating from Western Sahara to receive the same tariff preferences as Moroccan goods, provided that the origin is clearly labelled.

- Morocco continues investing in logistics infrastructure in the region, including economic zones and logistics hubs linked to Dakhla (Western Sahara) and the southern provinces, to position the region as a regional trade and logistics centre connecting Africa to global markets.

"Morocco's advancement of the Atlantic Initiative is expected to improve access to global maritime routes for landlocked Sahel countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger by providing them with trade corridors through Moroccan Atlantic ports, thereby increasing the flow of goods between West and North Africa."

"The revised trade agreement between the European Union and Morocco, allowing products from Western Sahara to benefit from Moroccan tariff preferences, could also boost exports such as fisheries and agricultural goods by improving their competitiveness in international markets."

"The investment of Morocco in logistics infrastructure in the region, including transport corridors, industrial zones, and improved port connectivity, is intended to boost trade flows with African partners."

LAAYOUNE, WESTERN SAHARA

ZAMBIA

Population size – over 22.3 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary Republic presidential democracy

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 5/2/2021

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- The Lobito corridor, which is a rail infrastructure that links Zambia and the DRC's Copperbelt to the Angola port of Lobito on the Atlantic Ocean, is a major ongoing project that is financed by the United States of America and Europe (Western powers). The railway forms critical infrastructure for the transportation of critical mineral exports. As of early 2026, the project has received up to 6 billion dollars in global commitments.[71]

- The Indian Ocean-bound railway infrastructure project, called the TAZARA railway, is undergoing a revitalisation project, financed by China and costing $1.4 Billion under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) business model. The TAZARA railway has been functional for over 50 years and has aged significantly; hence, the China-led revitalisation campaign of the existing infrastructure.[72]

- Zambia and Mozambique formally inaugurated the Chanida-Cassacatiza One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) and a cross-border digital interconnection system, marking a significant step in efforts to modernise trade infrastructure along one of Southern Africa's important transport corridors. This corridor connects Zambia to the ports of Beira and Nacala in Mozambique.[73]

71 https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/can-africa-win-west-china-scramble-minerals-2026-02-12

72 https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/china-zambia-tanzania-sign-14b-agreement-to-modernize-5-decade-old-railway-line/3749778

73 https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-infrastructures/2002-53112-a-strategic-corridor-takes-shape-as-zambia-and-mozambique-deepen-trade-integration

"The Lobito corridor project will increase trade opportunities, create new jobs and create new business opportunities for hospitality support services, among others."

"The TAZARA railway revitalisation project will increase the volume of trade transported on the route and modernise the infrastructure for improved efficiency."

"The One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) best suits the velocity of trade required for the AfCFTA under the trade in Goods protocol to be actualised."


LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

Population size – over 17 million (estimated)

System of government – Unitary presidential republic

Ratification status under the AfCFTA - Ratified 24/05/2019

Latest significant developments in intra-African trade –

- In December 2025, a new National Development Strategy (NDS 2, 2026-2030) was established with the intention to prioritise rail rehabilitation and support mining. The entire plan is currently valued at $2 billion. The railway project is 217 kilometer long structure that links Lion's Den in Zimbabwe to Kafue in Zambia, and it is expected to increase tonnage throughput from 2.1 million tonnes in 2025 to 12 million tons annually[74].

- Zimbabwe is one of the countries that make up the list of countries through which the Cairo to Cape Town continental Highway passes. In November 2025, it was announced that about 80% of the road had been constructed; the last portion of which is currently being built in Egypt.

- The government of Zimbabwe announced that more than 20 major infrastructure projects would be undertaken through 2026. The projects fall under the government's phase two works, which commenced on 1 February 2026 and are scheduled for completion within 12 months. Phase one of these works commenced on 28 July 2025 and will be completed on 31 July 2026. The projects entail the construction of four interchange projects and the upgrading of Liberation Legacy Way (17km) and the rehabilitation of city-wide roads (70 km)[75].

- Zimbabwe agreed to a $455 million, 15 -year concession deal with India's Jindal Steel for the refurbishment of a 920-megawatt coal-fired power plant in September 2025[76].

- In October 2025, the Chinese company, Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt, was expected to commence the production of lithium sulphate during Q1 2026 from a new $400 million plant in Zimbabwe. The plant has the capacity to exceed 50,000 metric tons of lithium sulphate annually. While the Chinese company has exported 400,000 tons of lithium concentrate from Zimbabwe in 2024, Zimbabwe's government has stated that it plans to ban the export of lithium concentrates from 2027 towards local processing. Additionally, another company Sinomine, announced plans to build a $500 million lithium sulphate plant in Zimbabwe.

74 https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-infrastructures/1312-51377-zimbabwe-targets-rail-revival-to-boost-regional-commerce

75 https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/zimbabwe-to-roll-out-over-20-major-infrastructure-projects-in-2026

76 https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/zimbabwe-agrees-455-million-power-plant-refurbishment-deal-with-jindal-2025-09-17

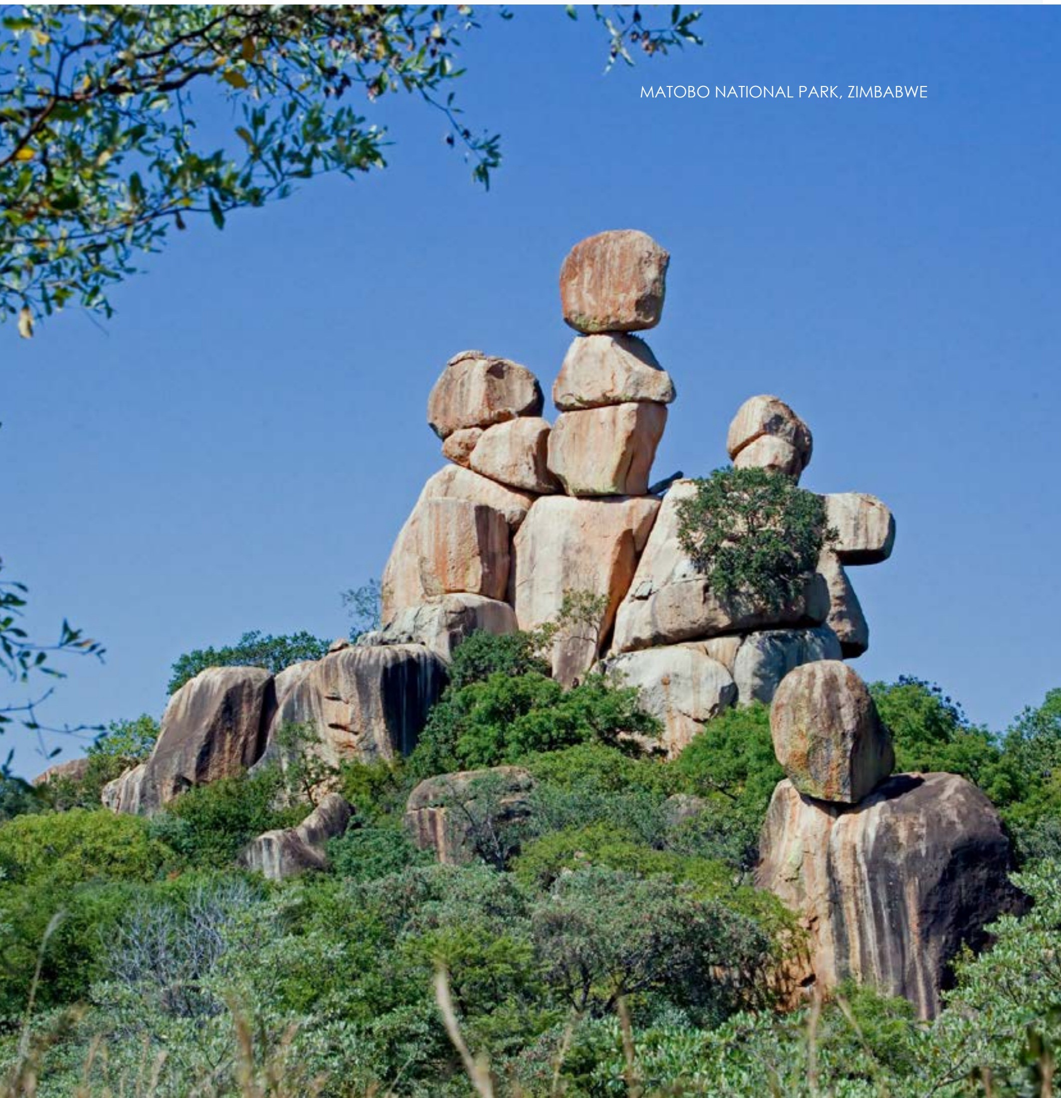
"This new rail project is expected to further integrate Zimbabwe into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) rail network to ease north-south trade along the Zambia and DRC corridor."

"The trans-African highway, connecting Cape Town to Cairo, gives participating states of the project ease of access to convenient trade routes and an alternative route for trade across Africa."

"The rehabilitation of the roads within the country will optimise trade logistics for increased throughput along those existing trade routes."

"The power generated from the coal power plant at full capacity will enable Zimbabwe to process its raw mineral deposits and, invariably, industrialise. Such a transition will improve Zimbabwe's ability to create value and earn more through trade."

"The benefit of Huayou operating in the country will allow Zimbabwe to learn and acquire the necessary skills for the effective extraction and subsequent refinement of the lithium sulphate.



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