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West Africa Mobile Energy Storage Power Supply



Overview

In a decisive move toward an integrated energy future, the West African Power Pool (WAPP) is spearheading a project to deploy Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region. What are West Africans doing to improve their power systems?

West Africans are now moving in many directions to enhance their power systems. This report offers an overview of the challenges and the great profusion of activity across the region. It should inform conversation at Nigeria Energy in Lagos (19-21 September) and at the Africa Energy Expo in Rwanda next year.

What is the main source of power in West Africa?

Hydroelectric power is the dominant source of power in the region and is the focus of most of the large schemes underway, although there are also plans to develop more gas-fired plants and some initiatives to develop coal-fired capacity. West African countries have now begun to develop utility-scale solar power.

What is the West Africa Energy Program?

The West Africa Energy Program run by US AID's Power Africa division includes support for five solar projects which will provide about 150MW of electricity, including the Koden and Ngréongo solar plants in Burkina Faso and a 250MW solar / hydropower hybrid plant in Ghana.

Where in West Africa is the biggest power generation project?

There are significant power generation projects planned or underway in most parts of West Africa, with regional economic heavyweight Nigeria the most active market and also home to the biggest scheme: the 3GW Mambilla hydroelectric plant.

Does Scatec have a solar-plus-storage site in South Africa?

Scatec's Kenhardt solar-plus-storage site in South Africa (above), which went online at the end of 2023. Image: Scatec. Africa's energy storage market has seen a boom since 2017, having risen from just 31MWh to 1,600MWh in 2024, according to trade body AFSIA Solar's latest report.

What are the most popular solar-plus-storage developments in Africa?

As noted by AFSIA Solar, one of the most notable solar-plus-storage developments in Africa is Norway-based independent power producer (IPP) Scatec's 225MW/1,140MWh Kenhardt project in South Africa. The site started operation in late 2023 (pictured above).

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