

The

Eastern Africa

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Weekly Insights

Monday 24th - Friday 28th November, 2025

A Week of Strategic Openings: Why Eastern Africa Must Act Decisively

The Weekly Insights underscores decisive shifts demanding urgent policy action in Eastern Africa for the week ending 28 November 2025. Breakthroughs in climate finance, trade, and multilateral cooperation present a narrow window for strategic leadership. The USD 5.5 billion Tropical Forest Forever Facility requires rapid national alignment to secure community-driven climate gains, while China's zero-tariff offer calls for a unified EAC strategy to avoid renewed dependency. The G20 Energy Security Toolkit and AU-EU Summit outcomes must be swiftly operationalized to strengthen energy resilience and security. With the ICJ advisory opinion boosting regional leverage, Eastern Africa must act boldly and cohesively to shape outcomes.

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Eastern Africa's Green Opportunity: Positioning for the \$ 5.5B Tropical Forest Forever Facility

COP30 has opened a new era for Eastern Africa's forest economy through the USD 5.5B Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF). With global finance now flowing directly to indigenous peoples and local communities, the region, home to 2% of the world's tropical rainforest, can unlock transformative, long-term benefits. The TFFF's predictable, performance-based payments reward countries for maintaining forest cover while guaranteeing communities a 20% share. For Eastern Africa, this creates space to expand green livelihoods, strengthen climate resilience, and build a unified regional forest economy. By leveraging the Coun-

try Access Platform, scaling J-REDD+, and coordinating investment outreach, the region can lead Africa's forest-centered transition.



Photo Credit: www.illuminem.com

From Market Access to Industrial Sovereignty in East Africa

East Africa must turn China's zero-tariff offer into a catalyst for industrial sovereignty rather than another raw materials dependency. A unified EAC strategy is essential to avoid fragmented bilateral deals and strengthen collective bargaining power. Negotiating as a block will help secure technology transfer, infrastructure, and investment aligned with AfCFTA goals. By building integrated regional value chains, the region can retain more economic value and accelerate industrialization. Kenya's automotive assembly and Rwanda's IT sector already illustrate this potential. The ultimate objective is to shift from

structural commodity exports to competitive industrial capability and ensure long-term economic resilience and strategic sovereignty.

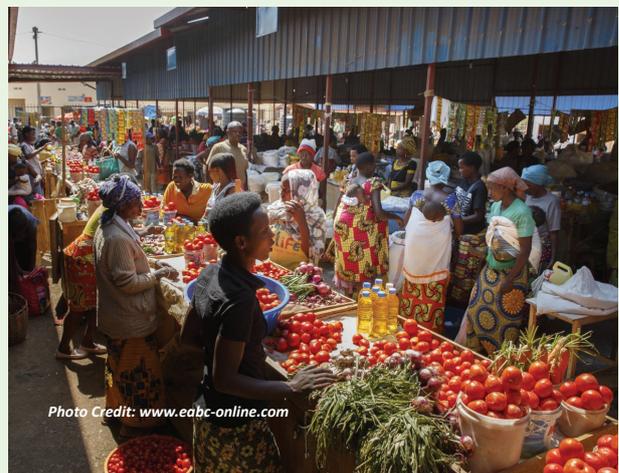


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Wednesday 26th November 2025

Harnessing the G20 Voluntary Energy Security Toolkit for Africa's Just Energy Transition

The G20 Summit endorsed the Voluntary Energy Security toolkit as a practical guide for strengthening national energy systems. Africa faces acute energy insecurity, with 600 million people lacking access to electricity and nearly one billion people without clean cooking solutions. The toolkit's framework, spanning technology, infrastructure, risk management, regional interconnectivity, and finance helps countries mobilize investment and concessional funding. It can expand clean energy access, support technology transfer, and build resilient systems. Success, however, depends on African governments adapting and operationa-

lizing the toolkit to fit national realities, ensuring a just, inclusive, and sustainable energy transition that accelerates long-term development.



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Thursday 27th November 2025

Strategic Benefits of the AU-EU Luanda Summit for Eastern Africa

The 7th Africa Union-European Union Summit in Luanda has concluded with concrete benefits for Eastern Africa. It promotes support for regional value chains and major infrastructure, fostering economic diversification. The clean energy initiative, targeting 100 million Africans, will unlock the region's renewable potential. Crucially, enhanced peace and security cooperation directly addresses instability in neighboring Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. For youth, expanded education and skills programs will help address unemployment. This strengthened partnership offers Eastern Africa a strategic pathway

to greater investment, resilience, and a more influential voice in reformed global governance, securing a more prosperous and stable future for the region.



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Friday 28th November 2025

ICJ Ruling as a New Lever for Eastern Africa's Climate Justice Diplomacy

The International Court of Justice's July 2025 advisory opinion marks a significant breakthrough for Eastern Africa's climate diplomacy. By affirming that historical emitters have legally binding obligations, it transforms the region's longstanding moral appeals into enforceable legal claims. For Eastern Africa, which is heavily impacted by droughts, floods, and economic losses, the opinion underscores the need to seek loss-and-damage compensation and reshape adaptation finance discussions. It boosts the region's influence in global climate governance. Also, it provides unprecedented leverage to demand accountable,

predictable climate action from wealthy nations, heralding a new chapter in the worldwide pursuit of climate justice.



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