

The

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Weekly Insights

Monday 9th - Friday 13th March, 2026

Resilience and Opportunity: Eastern Africa Navigates a Changing Global Landscape

Eastern Africa is entering a pivotal period where converging geopolitical, economic, and technological trends are shaping new risks and opportunities for regional resilience and growth. The Africa CISO Summit 2026 in Nairobi reflects rising priorities around cybersecurity and digital governance, while oil price volatility driven by conflict in the Middle East highlights the vulnerability of import-dependent economies and the need for diversified energy partnerships, including engagement with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. At the same time, institutional reforms within the East African Community, rapid aviation expansion led by Kenya and Ethiopia, and policy innovations such as Ethiopia's 10-year golden visa are strengthening the region's role as a gateway for trade, investment, and global mobility amid shifting dynamics affecting hubs like Dubai and Doha. Together, these developments signal a strategic moment for Eastern Africa to enhance digital security, energy resilience, regional integration, and investment competitiveness within evolving global economic networks.

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EAC Leadership and Financing Shift: Unlocking Eastern Africa's Integration Potential

The transition of the East African Community chairmanship to Uganda, alongside the adoption of a new financing formula, signals a decisive institutional step toward aligning political leadership with structural reform. Under the revised framework, 50% of the community's budget will be shared equally among partner states, while the remaining portion will be determined by economic size. As membership expands, the model provides a credible pathway to stabilize financing and reinforce the capacity of regional institutions within Eastern Africa. It also creates momentum to accelerate cross-border infrastructure

investment and deepen market integration, strengthening the bloc's long-term economic and strategic coherence.

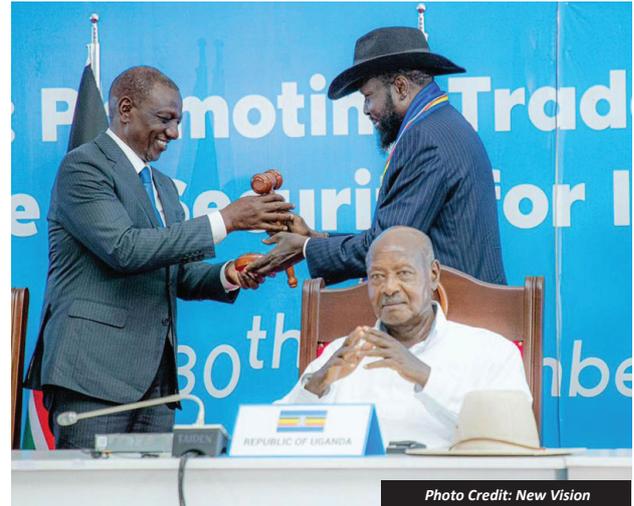


Photo Credit: New Vision

Navigating Middle East War-Induced Oil Volatility: Strategic Energy Resilience Options for Eastern Africa

Oil surging to \$119 per barrel amid the Middle East war signals mounting pressure on import-dependent regions such as Eastern Africa. The spike will drive higher transport costs, food inflation, currency depreciation, and widening fiscal strain. To prepare for a protracted conflict, governments must prudently manage existing fuel stocks by prioritizing essential sectors vital for survival, stability, and the basic functioning of the state. The region should recalibrate strategic partnerships with OPEC countries and coordinate petroleum procurement to stabilize supply. Diversifying supply sources and

securing alternative import routes will further strengthen regional resilience against future global energy shocks and disruptions.



Photo Credit: Trends Research & Advisory

Wednesday 11th March 2026

Cybersecurity and Regional Resilience: Leveraging the Africa CISO Summit 2026

The Africa CISO Summit 2026, taking place on 11–12 March 2026 in Nairobi, reinforces ongoing efforts by Eastern African states to strengthen cybersecurity governance and digital resilience. As Africa's digital economies expand, cybersecurity is becoming central to economic stability and national security. Countries across the region are already developing national cybersecurity strategies, establishing computer emergency response teams, and investing in digital infrastructure protection. By convening policymakers, technology firms, and investors, the summit supports policy coordination, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. These engagements help Eastern African countries deepen

cooperation, improve cyber preparedness, and strengthen collective responses to evolving transnational cyber threats.



Photo Credit: CIO Africa

Thursday 12th March 2026

Africa's Aviation Market Poised for Robust Growth in 2026

In the initial ten months of 2026, Africa has scheduled 182.4 million departure seats, marking a 13.7% increase compared to 2025. This growth is predominantly fueled by international capacity, which has surged by 18.6% year-on-year, reaching 129.5 million seats. Albeit the domestic market still lagging behind with a 3.3% growth. With long-term forecasts predicting annual passenger growth of 3.7%, reaching 345 million passengers per annum by 2043. This expansion is being led by five key markets: Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Eastern Africa is currently the fastest-growing aviation sub-region on the continent, with airline seat capacity increasing by 24.3% outperforming Northern and Southern Africa.

The geopolitical crisis in the Gulf countries further underscores the strategic importance of offering alternative destinations, routes, hubs and resilience. With this increased air traffic poised to directly facilitate the growth of the tourism sector in Africa and creating opportunities for various stakeholders across Africa.



Photo Credit: Bizcommunity

Friday 13th March 2026

Seizing the Moment: How Eastern Africa Can Leverage Golden Visas for Investment Growth

Ethiopia's introduction of a 10-year Golden Visa signals a broader opportunity for Eastern Africa to reposition itself as an alternative destination for global investors, expatriates, and digital nomads amid geopolitical disruptions affecting Gulf cities of Dubai and Doha. By offering long-term residency pathways, the region can attract mobile capital, entrepreneurial talent, and high-value service industries. Coordinated regional policies on residency, investment incentives, and digital infrastructure could transform Eastern Africa into a competitive gateway for global mobility and innovation. If strategically

managed, such initiatives can diversify revenue streams, strengthen tourism and real estate markets, and accelerate the region's integration into emerging global economic networks.



Photo Credit: Living Stone Estates



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