# African Business Opportunities Newsletter

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## Sierra Leone: Studies Show Rich Potential in Underexploited Fisheries

Sierra Leone's fisheries sector remains one of the biggest sources of untapped opportunity. Studies by the European Commission and UK Department for International Development show abundant stock of fish that is grossly underexploited.

Sierra Leone's fisheries sector remains one of the biggest sources of untapped opportunity. The study shows the country's coast is well stocked with fish and seafood, but is grossly underexploited. The government is keen to develop and also streamline the sector to end illegal fishing which is costing the economy an estimated $30 million a year.

Fishing in Sierra Leone is split into two markets - industrial fishing in the Economic Exclusive Zone, and small scale fishing. Both markets provide opportunities for investment. Previously industrial fishing was limited, enabling local fish populations to recover in large numbers. A European ban on fish imports - due to uncontrolled illicit fishing - has also reduced industrial fishing in the country.

**Rich potential for industrial fishing**

EC and DFID's data indicates the fisheries are well stocked with export quality species that have the potential to fetch high value in international markets. The country's 402 kilometres of coastline and a continental shelf of 25,600 square kilometres contain viable stocks of pelagic fish (tuna, barracuda, cuttlefish and octopus), demersal fish (snapper, catfish and grouper), shrimp, squid, lobster and crab.

**Developing fish nurseries**

Sierra Leone's rivers, estuaries, and tributaries, with their extensive mangrove vegetation, provide favourable conditions for sheltering and nursing penaeid shrimp and fish such as bonga and croakers, as well as oysters. The government estimates that the shrimp catch could reach 200,000 metric tons a year.

Processing fresh water fish

Sixteen families of freshwater fish have been identified, comprising an estimated 100 species-suggesting that investment in inland fishing may have an annual sustainable yield of 44 metric tons. Sierra Leone also supports an unknown quantity of oysters that, with proper cold storage and supply chain investments, offers export potential.

**Potential to supply regional and domestic demand**

The DFID estimates that the small-scale and commercial catch is about half its annual potential of 16,000-40,000 metric tons of freshwater fish, 55,000 metric tons of pelagic fish, and 85,000-100,000 metric tons of demersal fish.

The European Commission is financing a sanitary improvements programme to enable the sector achieve international standards.

**Market size**

The country's population of an estimated 6 million is increasingly demanding processed foods and other products. Companies based in Sierra Leone also enjoy relatively easy access, through regional trade agreements, to nearly 215 million regional consumers in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire (18.2 million), Guinea (9.4 million), and Liberia (3 million) by sea and land transportation.

**Market access**

Sierra Leone provides duty-free access to large markets including:

- Domestic and regional demand is high for fresh and processed fish and meat
- European Union
- United States of America

*Source: TradeinvestAfrica. Image: Source: blogs.nature*

## Uganda: Country to Market Vanilla as High-End Export

For food producers all over the world, the French gourmet chef is perhaps the most discerning of critics. With one nod of approval deciding the fate of many a high end supplier, it is nonetheless still seen as a prize worth aspiring towards.

This is certainly what Uganda is working towards with vanilla. According to research by the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, there is a niche market in countries such as France and the USA.

"Uganda is a one of the worlds few exporters of vanilla," explains Lisa Cummins, a Trade Policy Analyst working at the Ministry. "In examining how best to export this product, the Ministry studied different markets where there are varying levels of demand and concluded that the organic vanilla produced in Uganda has the ability to succeed at the high-end of several Western countries."

**Network of services**

In order to promote greater synergies among the services sector and the development of infrastructural services which can drive the wider economy, Ms Cummins is working with the Ministry on a groundbreaking coalition of services - the first of its kind in any continental African country.

Once this network is up and running on a national level Ms Cummins believes Uganda will be well equipped to join the Global Services Network, which will usher in many opportunities.

"Uganda will be able to share knowledge, new skills, market techniques and export opportunities with countries across the world," she explains.

Ms Cummins is part of the 'Hub and Spokes' project, which aims to help African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to participate more effectively in multilateral trade negotiations. This project places regional trade policy advisers in regional integration organisations and trade policy analysts, like Ms Cummins, in ministries responsible for trade.

*Source: Commonwealth News and Information Service (London) Image: Source: ambkampala.um*

## Mozambique: China's Farming Ambitions Take Shape

*by Munyaradzi Makoni*

Cape Town — China is sending its farming expertise to Mozambique in a drive to increase the African country's agricultural productivity.

The Chinese Agricultural Technology Research and Transfer Centre is being built on a 52-hectare plot near the Umbeluzi Agricultural Station, close to the capital Maputo. It will open in early 2010.

The centre's aim is to improve farming methods and yields through the training of Mozambican scientists and farmers.

Chinese experts will introduce seeds from maize, rice, vegetables and fruit, and researchers will test them for climatic suitability to Mozambique. Animal husbandry will also come under scrutiny.

The centre, funded with US$55 million, is the first of ten Africa-based agricultural technology centres promised in 2007 by Chinese president Hu Jintao. China has pledged to help modernise the Mozambican agricultural sector and aims to increase rice production five-fold, from 100,000 to 500,000 tonnes a year.

Patricio Sande, president of the Scientific Research Association of Mozambique, says the centre will use scientific research to speed up agricultural development in Mozambique. It will complement the government's vision to transform agriculture into a productive, high-value market-oriented sector, he adds. Many of Mozambique's exports are agricultural products.

"When we talk about combating poverty, we are mainly looking to agricultural development," says Sande.

China is increasingly seeking new investment opportunities in Africa's agricultural sector, with Chinese financiers focusing on Angola, Malawi, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe among other countries, says Martyn Davies, chief executive officer of research and strategy company, Frontier Advisory.

Chris Alden, a China-Africa relations expert from the South African Institute of International Affairs, says the new centre will ultimately help China meet its domestic food demands by buying some of the produce while raising incomes in Mozambique and providing the country with a source of foreign currency.

"In this sense, it is mutually beneficial - the classic tag line to China's engagement with African countries and one which I think in this case holds," Alden told SciDev.Net.

George Marechera, an agriculture business specialist for the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, says Mozambique will benefit from the centre only if it embraces the technologies on offer.

Moreover, the centre's training and expertise will be transferred to other regions only if scientists, farmers and agro-processors from across the country participate in the programme.

"The government should be part of the development so it is sustainable once the Chinese leave," Marechera told SciDev.Net.

*Source: SciDev.Net (London) Image:projectlibertyint*

# Kenya: Ministry to Float Tender for Green Energy Production

Steve Mbogo



Tenders for the construction of a garbage-powered plant that will produce electricity will be posted in the first week of December.

The Energy ministry will invite investors to set up a garbage processing machines that tap methane gas, which is then used to power special designed generators that produce electricity.

"We have been having issues with some city councillors that have held up the tendering, but we have decided to go on next month," said Ministry of Energy PS Patrick Nyoike.

He said the power plan is not tied to the relocation of the current garbage dump site from Dandora to Ruai, which was said to be the case before.

Some councillors have opposed the project saying the relocation should take place first.

The government is seeking to generate at least 40MW from methane generated by garbage within the Nairobi City Council's (NCC) jurisdiction.

"The processing plant will not necessarily be set up where the garbage dump site is," said Mr Nyoike.

The project is expected to be one of the major renewable power projects in Kenya.

It will borrow heavily from that of Durban City, in South Africa, which also uses garbage to power generators that produce electricity.

There has been an exchange of visits between officials of the EThekwini Municipality in Durban and NCC officials in the last two weeks.

The planned power plant was part of the discussions.

Acceleration of plans to set up of the plant is part of the green energy drive that the government is pursing to diversity power sources.

The power plant will not only earn NCC extra income from sale of units to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, but will also qualify for funds from the global climate change investment programmes.

One of the major players expected to participate in the project is General Electric (GE), which is expected to tender for the technology and training of capturing methane gas.

The company develop the Durban plant. Mr George Njenga, GE Energy's head of East Africa, confirmed that discussions with NCC were going on.

"The interest is high and we are trying to push the council to move fast," he said.

GE Energy will tender supply generators known as Jenbacher and other units which allow for processing of garbage and sewage.

The units are able to capture methane gas produced by the decomposing garbage and sewage and direct it to power the generators, the way diesel is used to do the same.

*Kenya President, Mwai Kibaki*

A likely supplier participant is IST Energy, a company that has developed a shipping container called Green Energy Machine (GEM) which can turn trash into electricity and heat.

Another likely participant is PowerMaster, whose ReCyclone technology can recycle garbage turning into electricity.

The project will be divided into two; equipment supply and managers on one hand, and managers of the generated electricity who will be responsible for its sale and planning for expansion or diversification into other products like organic fertilisers.

*Source: Business Daily (Nairobi), Image: Guardian.Uk*

Environment and Renewable

## Nigeria: Cassakero Project Targets 10,000 Ethanol Refineries in 36 States

*Grace Azubuike*

Abuja — The cassakero project has targeted the installation of 10,000 small scale bio-ethanol refineries in the 36 states of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), over the next four years from December 2009 to December 2013 to produce the daily ethanol cooking fuel requirement for 4 million families.

The Chief Executive, Agro Industries Services Limited (CAISL), Mr Boma Anga, disclosed this to newsmen in Abuja, stating that the bio-ethanol refinery would be installed, owned and operated by private companies, individuals in local cooperatives, and will be denatured with Bitrex, a better substance to render it undrinkable and a colorant to give it a distinguishing color.

He further said that the second component of the initiative is the circulation of the cleancook stove that will utilise the cassakero cooking fuel and this would require Nigerian households to acquire new stoves called “Clean Cook Stove” since the cassakero cannot be used on the existing kerosene stoves.

Anga stated that the stove is a non-pressurised alcohol stove that absorbs and retains its liquid fuel in a manner that prevents spilling, leaking, fires and explosions, also supply the clean cook stoves to selected families without any upfront charges.

The programme plans to distribute a total of four million single and double burner stoves to four million Nigerians nationwide.

According to him, cassakero would provide Nigeria with a new household fuel for use in cooking, lighting, heating, refrigeration and electricity generation. It would be cleaner, safer and cheaper than kerosene without the need for government subsidy.

He added that the success and sustainability of the initiative is heavily dependent on the availability of an efficient, adequate and sustainable feedstock supply system.

The key project goal is the establishment of an out growers-based feedstock supply system that would produce 8,000,000 tonnes of cassava, at an average yield of 20 tones/hectare from 400,000 hectares to be planted nationwide.

*Source: Leadership (Abuja) Image: minnpost.com*

## Malawi: Renewable Energy Project Needs Financing



There is an opportunity to expand an existing business involving the planting of Jatropha curcas for producing bio diesel.

Bio Energy Resources LTD (BERL) is seeking financing for a renewable energy project involving the planting and processing of Jatropha curcas as an alternative source of energy for rural communities in Malawi. The company based in Lilongwe works with small-scale farmers through introducing and supporting the growing of the plant for bio-diesel production.

Most households are currently using firewood as a source of energy, leading to massive felling of trees. Using bio-diesel as a source of energy will ease the rate of deforestation, which is currently causing soil erosion.

Jatropha, a low maintenance, high yield, drought resistant crop, is also intended to supplement the cultivation of tobacco.

BERL is looking for a partner or a loan to facilitate planting and processing of a further 126,000 hectares of jatropha trees.

The jatropha seeds will be processed into bio-diesel while the remaining seedcake will be combosted to produce organic fertilizer. Seed husks can be used as a mushroom-growing substrate.

**Estimated cost of needed investment : US$ 4,550,000.**

Project status: Over 300 hectares of Jatropha curcas have been planted in the area around Salima. Four large nurseries have also been established to provide seedlings to individual growers and provide feedstock for larger plantations.

**Development impact:**

- Curb deforestation
- Improve health
- Increase incomes

*Source: TradeinvestAfrica. Image: Susty.com*

## Senegal: Good Telecoms Infrastructure a Bonus for Potential Investors

Though Senegal has developed an extensive and modern telecommunications infrastructure, overall penetration is still low resulting in attractive opportunities for new entrants to establish call centres, computer factories and to develop software.



Senegal has developed an extensive and modern telecommunications infrastructure. Since the liberalisation of the communications sector in 1999, the number of mobile subscribers has risen dramatically, now representing around 95% of all telephone lines. Sales generated by the sector accounted for more than 7% of the GDP in 2007.

The West African country introduced ADSL broadband service (2.3 gigabytes bandwith) in 2003, which has almost completely replaced dial-up as the internet access method of choice. The Internet and broadband market is expected to receive a boost from planned fibre optic submarine cables that will dramatically reduce the cost of international bandwidth.

The government plans to make Senegal a haven for teleprocessing services, supported by its advantageous geographic position, relatively good telecommunications infrastructure and affordable wages. Currently, telemarketing businesses are mostly serving the French market.

**Investment opportunities**

Overall penetration in all sectors of telecommunications market is still low, resulting in attractive opportunities for new entrants such as the following;

- Cybervillages
- Call Centers
- Business Process Outsourcing
- Computer factory
- Software development

- Computer engineering
- Data management and processing
- Telecom integrators

**Reasons to invest in the ICT sector**

- Modern and reliable telecommunication network (2200km of optic fibre, 100% digital and internet bandwith 2.3 gigabytes ADSL)
- Quality and competitive labour (English/French/Arabic spoken)
- Existence of pioneer ICT Companies
- High growth in outsourcing
- Closeness to markets - GMT Time Zone

**Incentives**

The government offers special incentives for major projects which are negotiated with the relevant state department.

The revised incentive scheme also offers the following:

- Increased investment protection
- Improved investment incentives
- Consideration of priority sectors
- The issuance of documents for approval in 10 days
- Compliance with the Code of the Environment

*Source: TradeinvestAfrica. Image: news.ann24*

Telecom and ICT

## Burkina Faso: Country Has Lowest Internet Usage

EDITORIAL

Burundi has one of the lowest internet usage in the world with only 0.7% of the total population of 8million people connected. This ranks Burundi 11th from bottom, the worst being East Timor, an island nation in the East Indies with 0.1% and a population of 1.1 million people. In the western world, the usage in some countries goes as high as 82% in the Netherlands and 74% in the USA and Japan. Needless to say, these countries are very highly developed.

The rest of East Africa is not much better with Rwanda at 1%, Tanzania at 1%, Uganda at 2.4% and the highest, Kenya, at only 7.9%. Now with the advent of broadband and nations coming together to avail broadband internet connectivity and efforts being made to connect the East African Community (EAC), these figures ought to go up.

Information is power, as has been said, and it is also said to be the paramount factor of production. There are many uses of information and when one is deprived, there are dire consequences. Maternal mortality in Africa can be reduced by knowledge, so can the spread of disease and poverty. The world would not be having issues of global

warning if information was properly disseminated to all.

The creators of the World Wide Web realized the importance of information and rather than enrich themselves with their creation, they elected to avail this awsome tool free of charge to all and sundry.

Now, the people who control access to the World Wide Web i.e. internet service providers (isps), computer hardware and software manufacturers, owners of satellites and fiber optic cables, are making a financial killing. In East Africa, this greed is the major cause of the low internet connectivity.

The EAC has to take on the example set by the creators of the World Wide Web in championing the providision of access to the internet that would be affordable to at least 50% of the population if we are to address disease, poverty, hunger and the digital divide.

*Source: East African Business Week (Kampala) Image: Gulfnews.com*

## African development continues apace

At the start of 2006 it was clear that the African market was making an appearance on the radars of international companies. The following three years have been characterised by increased investment into the African continent, and the telecommunications industry can be seen as the perfect showcase for this activity.

The prominence of this industry and the international attention it has garnered could be put down to the simple fact that it is critical to the broader industrial development of Africa. Without the enabling technology provided by the telecommunications sector, the ability of any industry segment to be a viable competitor on the world stage is severely curtailed.

In the past, the regulatory environment for communications in Africa has proved to be cause for concern as many governments adopted measures tantamount to protectionism. This trend has changed dramatically as the benefits of ensuring an open market have been proved time and time again. In some cases, the other extreme is true and regulators allowed too many operators into the market as they enjoyed the financial gains earned from pricey license fees. This practice is now less common, although it is still something to be monitored. The greatest challenge resulting from this trend is the lack of available spectrum for operators. This has occurred in markets such as Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Operators, regulators and infrastructure providers alike are now challenged to overcome this issue.

The implementation of international best practice in terms of regulation continues to gain momentum and most operators have started the process of change in their respective markets. Importantly, this is true of the satellite market as well and there are a number of regional agencies working together to achieve the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks. This example is being followed at a national level by various regulators and there are hopes that the entire process will be almost complete by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

Improved regulation has paved the way for the progress made in the various undersea cables destined to bring the African continent closer to the rest of the world. A shining example of the promise of these cables is the SEACOM project, which was completed earlier this year. The landing of the cable in countries such as South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya was watched from a global stage and the success of this project shows what is possible when the true spirit of international cooperation is followed.

This is just the first of many cable projects underway for Africa. Angola has a noteworthy project that will connect six of the country's coastal provinces and the length of the west coast of Africa is to be serviced by two additional cable projects. These cables are not only to support the existing SAT3 cable (which was recently upgraded), but are destined to eventually replace the aging infrastructure, which has a lifespan of about fifteen years. The Uhurunet and Cable One projects are examples of this. The much publicized EASSy cable looks set to reach conclusion in 2010 or 2011 and the TEAMS cable is also expected to make landing during this period.

While the significance of these cables cannot be underestimated, it is very important to emphasise the greater importance of ensuring that there is sufficient terrestrial infrastructure in place. This is the only way to realise the full potential of the additional bandwidth capacity brought to bear by the undersea cables. At present this is lacking in most of the African continent and there are various reasons for this. One of the most important is the fact that governments are faced with other resourcing priorities, such as education, sanitation and healthcare (although there is growing recognition that effective telecommunications would be of significant help to these sectors). This leaves the telecommunications industry a little way behind in attracting government investment. The current high cost of project finance is another obstacle, as is a lack of project management expertise necessary for the successful completion of these projects.

Whilst there is greater momentum towards completing these projects, they are definitely still a work in progress and additional emphasis is required to ensure their completion. Innovative partnerships between the public and private sector are only one example of how African companies and countries are addressing this challenge.

Partnerships, strategic alliances and merger and acquisition activity have been making headlines this year. The most notable event in this regard was the unbundling of Vodacom shares by Telkom and the listing of this company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange as Vodafone increased its shareholding in the African operator to 65%. Vodacom's listing was a great success and despite some operational hiccups in the form of the decision to pull out of the DRC and an inability to reach CAPEX goals, the company looks in fine form.

MTN is another Pan-African operator which continues to capture news headlines. The talk of a possible merger between the operator and India's Bharti Airtel was a global news story for many months. Although the deal failed to materialise, this type of negotiation serves to demonstrate the increased international interest in the African continent and the synergies that exist between emerging market operators.

Other examples of international interest in the telecommunications market in Africa include the increased investment by France Telecom. It has a direct stake in a national operator and is also present in more than ten African countries through its Orange subsidiary. Frost & Sullivan expects this level of interest to continue to grow. Vodafone is likely to expand its presence on the continent with direct investment and Vodacom's footprint expansion will be worth watching.

The market looks set to continue its development well into 2010 as the FIFA World Cup comes to South Africa. The tournament is expected to have an incredible impact on the continent and this is just the first of many landmark developments that are expected to touch the continent in the next five years. While the past five years have provided unprecedented levels of exciting developments, Frost & Sullivan expects this is only the beginning, as the market will truly take off in the next five years.

*Source: Telecoms.com*

# Africa: Africa Needs $46 Billion to Tackle Power Storage - World Bank Report



Clement Nwoji, Abuja — The report of a rercent World Bank survey conducted in 24 African countries has revealed that more than $46 Billion is required per annum over the next decade to address the epileptic power problem hindering economic and industrial development in African countries.

The report noted that even if major inefficiencies are redressed, that there is currently a funding gap of $31 billion every year and much of it are in power and water infrastructure in fragile states.

The study further shows that the poor state of infrastructure in Sub Saharan Africa, its electricity, water, roads, and information and communications technology (ICT), cuts national economic growth by two per cent every year and reduces business productivity by as much as 40 percent.

Titled “Africa’s Infrastructure: A Time for Transformation” the study discovered that Africa has the weakest infrastructure in the world, but ironically Africans in some countries pay twice as much for basic services as people elsewhere.

It maintained that well functioning infrastructure is essential to Africa’s economic performance and that improving inefficiencies and reducing waste could result in major improvements in African’s lives.

The 24 African countries surveyed include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

According to the report estimated expenditures, “US$93 billion are needed annually over the next decade, more than twice what was previously thought. Almost half of this amount is needed to address the continent’s current power supply crisis that is hindering Africa’s growth.

“The new estimate amounts to roughly 15 percent of the continent’s gross domestic product (GDP), comparable to what China invested in infrastructure over the last decade.

Startling discoveries by the survey include that the existing spending on African infrastructure is much higher than previously known, $45 billion a year and the fact that most of this is domestically financed by African tax payers and consumers.

It also confirmed that there is also considerable wastage to address, adding that a number of efficiency improvements could potentially expand the available resources by a further $17 billion.

Particularly, the report stated “However, even if major efficiencies are gained there is still a funding gap of $31 billion every year, much of it for power and water infrastructure in fragile states.

“Relative to the size of their economies, the funding gap is daunting for the region’s low-income countries (who would need to spend an additional 9 percent of their GDP) and particularly for the region’s fragile states (who would need to spend an additional 25 percent of their GDP).

“Resource-rich countries like Nigeria and Zambia face a more manageable funding gap of 4 percent of GDP. Particularly now with the global financial crisis, investing in African infrastructure is critical for Africa’s future”.

The World Bank Vice-President for the African Region, Dr. (Mrs.) Obiageli Ezekwesili said “Modern infrastructure is the backbone of an economy and the lack of it inhibits economic growth.

“This report shows that investing more funds without tackling inefficiencies would be like pouring water into a leaking bucket. Africa can plug those leaks through reforms and policy improvements which will serve as a signal to investors that Africa is ready for business.”

The report recommends addressing the $17 billion annual efficiency gap and closing the remaining $31 billion annual funding gap for African infrastructure.

The World Bank maintained that closing the efficiency gap requires improving management of utilities, ensuring adequate maintenance, promoting regional integration, recovering costs while recasting subsidies to enable broader access, and improving allocation and spending of public resources.

To close the funding gap a wide range of sources will need, including public budgets, resource rents, local capital markets, private sector and non-OECD finance, as well as traditional donor assistance.

*Source: The Daily Champion. Image: Britsattheirbest.com*

# Namibia: Aussie Firm Buys Karibib Lithium Mines

DIVERSIFIED resources company Black Fire Minerals has snapped up the Karibib Lithium Pegmatite Project from Australian private company Sunrise Minerals in a deal worth about 455 000 Australian dollars.

The acquisition will be facilitated via Black Fire purchasing Sunrise's private Namibian subsidiary Starting Right Investments 94, which is the holder of the Karibib lithium Exclusive Prospecting Licences EPL 3750 and EPL 3751.

The Karibib lithium project, located 120 kilometres northwest of Windhoek, covers 765 square kilometres of the Karibib pegmatite field.

The project tenure includes the historic Rubikon, Helicon and Fricke's lithium, tantalum and cesium mines which operated intermittently from 1930 to 1994.

"Historic mine production data is poorly recorded, but the Rubikon mine reportedly produced some 17 000 tons of lithium mineral concentrates from small scale open-pit and underground mining between 1980 and 1994," said Black Fire Minerals in a statement Thursday.

Black Fire intends to immediately commence an "aggressive exploration programme" to test drill the known significant strike extensions of the Rubikon and Helicon pegmatites and to assess the potential of the remainder of the two EPL areas for new lithium pegmatite discoveries.

The purchase agreement is conditional upon regulatory approvals to be satisfied within 30 days.

Final consideration for the transaction will be 3,5 million fully paid ordinary shares in Black Fire, with these shares being subject to a voluntary six-month escrow period.

At the company's closing share price on November 11 2009 of 13 Australian cents, this equates to an acquisition cost of 455 000 Australian dollars.

The share price now stands at 14c, following the release of the announcement.

Lithium is an extremely soft, silvery-grey metallic element since it is extremely reactive to heat and it is used in components and in batteries. Salts of lithium are used as mood altering drugs.

Black Fire Managing Director Simon Rigby said the Karibib Project had not been subjected to modern exploration and the historic lithium mining activities were largely small-scale gouging operations that only exploited small portions of the outcropping pegmatites.

"This provides a significant opportunity for Black Fire to carry out drilling programmes and utilise modern regional exploration techniques to assess the entire project area," Rigby said.

He said the acquisition of Karibib also represented an excellent opportunity for the company to participate in the rapidly growing sector of the energy storage business due to the proliferation of electric vehicles and electronic equipment using Li-ion batteries.

"The company intends to advance both Karibib and the previously announced Mystique Gold Project through technically focused exploration activities over the next six months," Mr Rigby said.

"With the recent successful completion of a significant capital raising, the company is well positioned to fund the current projects and maintain the search for further high quality projects for potential joint venture or acquisition."

*Source: Namibian. Image: matternetwork.com*

# Zambia: Seven Companies Bid for Petroleum Exploration

Three Zambian companies are among the seven bidders who have been awarded the licence to explore petroleum in three provinces as the Government has called for immediate commencement of the works.

Mines and Minerals Development Minister Maxwell Mwale announced the seven successful bidders for the 11 demarcated petroleum exploration blocks at a Press briefing in Lusaka yesterday.

Only one bidder out of the eight companies shortlisted has been left out while the 12 remaining blocks in three provinces will be re-advertised.

Mr Mwale named the successful local companies as Majetu, which has been offered two blocks in North-Western Province, and Barotse Petroleum Company, which has been given two blocks in Western Province.

Another local firm, Chat Milling Company of Lusaka will explore in

two blocks in North-Western Province and another block in Western Province.

The foreign companies are Petrodel Resources of Britain, GB Petroleum of Britain, Glint Energy of United States of America and Exile Resources of Canada.

Petrodel, which is one of the leading African oil exploration and trading companies, is actively involved in the international markets.

It was established about 15 years ago and is engaged in business in more than 20 African countries.

Information available on its website shows that the company is focused on bringing value to Africa's oil and gas sector with assets in Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania.

Petrodel's strategy is based on developing regional systems, from exploration and development of oil and gas reserves through crude trading, processing, supply, storage and wholesale distribution of refined products, to shipping and ship's agency services.

Exile Resources on the other hand is an independent oil and gas company focused on development and production projects in sub-Saharan West Africa.

The company is acquiring a number of projects in Nigeria and intends to develop the fields over the near to medium term.

It plans to increase its portfolio with attractive exploration and development opportunities in Nigeria and across the Gulf of Guinea.

Glint Energy is a Texas oil and gas energy company with target assets in North America, South America, East Africa, the Middle East and now Zambia.

*Source: Times of Zambia Image: Skyscrappercity*

## Nigeria: Construction 'To Become World's Fastest Growing'

*By Bennett Oghifo with agency report*

Lagos — Construction growth in Nigeria will be the fastest of all markets, according to the latest 10-year forecast from Global Construction Perspectives and Oxford Economics.

The new study says China will overtake the US as the world's biggest construction market by 2018, but that the fastest growth will happen in Nigeria.

The survey said infrastructure is the hottest sector to be in and that "it is set to grow in emerging markets by a staggering 128 per cent from now to 2020, compared with just 18 percent over the same period in developed countries".

The report, which named Nigeria "global hotspot from here to 2020" says the nation's construction growth is even faster than India's, reflecting increased wealth and urbanisation resulting from the country's oil production.

"Its population of approximately 154 million is urbanising at one of the fastest rates in the world, but construction is now only 3.2 percent of GDP," it said.

It stated that from 2009 to 2020, only Nigeria and India will enjoy higher growth rates than China in their construction output, but that despite India's continued construction boom, China's market will still be between three and four times bigger by 2020.

It says in just ten years, China's already massive construction market will be worth almost US$2.4 trillion, nearly 20 per cent of global construction output.

The ten year forecast indicates that emerging markets will rapidly overtake the construction output of their developed neighbours.

"The top ten highest growth markets in 2020 will be entirely composed of emerging markets, with Poland the only European country to feature on the list," it said.

Speaking at the launch of the report "Global Construction 2020" in London, Mike Betts of Global Construction Perspectives said that China's construction industry looks unstoppable.

"The construction market in China is already enormous at almost double the size of its nearest rival Japan. The United States has for some time held the top spot but despite its strong predicted growth over the next decade, China will become the world's largest construction market by 2018," he said.

Adrian Cooper of leading business forecasters Oxford Economics said: "We have identified the key drivers and used data including population projections, long term GDP estimates and public sector budgets to feed into our modelling to help us understand how the global construction industry is changing at a rapid rate.

"All of the data points to both short and long term growth in emerging markets. We predict that in just ten years time construction in these markets will more than double in size, growing by an estimated 110% and representing 17.2 percent of GDP in 2020."

The report highlights that today's global construction market is worth an estimated $7.5 trillion, representing 13.4 percent of global GDP. But by 2020, construction will be a $12.7 trillion global market, an overall growth of 70 per cent in the next decade. Construction in 2020 will account for 14.6 per cent of global GDP.

The largest construction market globally is residential accounting for 40 per cent of the total global construction market by 2020 when it will be worth $5.1 trillion, said the report.

The forecast is already coming true for Nigeria with the federal and state governments policy of developing the nation's infrastructure through Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives that have resulted in the concessioning of airports, roads, bridges and public buildings.

*Source: This Day. Image: Blogger.com*

# Uganda: Turning Banana Peels into Poultry Feeds

Jude Luggya

Over 1,500 tonnes of garbage are generated in Kampala daily. The City Council is overwhelmed by the waste output due to its lack of capacity to collect and dump it at its landfills.

Three quarters of garbage rots uncollected on pavements, streets, sewerage outlets and water channels. The unfortunate tragedy is witnessed especially in markets, blurring the city's image and posing a serious health danger.

However, thanks to an innovation of Kasubi Parish Local Community Development Initiative and Kawaala Recycling and Manufacturing Development Group who have started turning banana peels into veterinary feeds.

Mr Moses Nadiope, the coordinator of Kasubi Parish Local Community Development Initiative said turning banana peels into banana bran project was developed from the general observation that chicken, pigs, and cows ate the raw peels.

"We wondered why the peels could not be dried and milled into feeds," he said.

He said over 70 per cent of the garbage in Kasubi, Kawaala, Nakulabye and neighbouring areas are banana peels making the sourcing of the raw material for making the banana peel bran easy.

"Our project reduces the burden of garbage in our neighbourhood because we buy dried banana peels from residents at Shs120 per kilogramme," Mr Nadiope said.

He added that the burden now is to popularise the message to residents not to throw the banana peels at garbage hips but to sell them to the group. The three-year Sustainable Neighbours in Focus project started in 2007 and is supported by Environmental Alert, an NGO working to ensure environmental protection, Makerere University, CIAT, Urban Harvest, Kampala City Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

Environmental Alert bought them a mill they are now using to process the banana peel bran.

Mr Nadiope said everyday, they produce one tonne of peel bran from six tonnes of dry banana peels.

Ms Maria Kawesa, Environmental Alert's programme officer in charge of the project said the banana peel bran is a good substitute to maize bran which is becoming very expensive for poultry farmers because it is highly nutritious.

She said microbiological tests were carried on banana peel bran at the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture. The test showed that the banana peel bran has enough phosphorous, proteins, calcium and is free from heavy metals like chrolorium, cadnium, lead and mercury.

The Makerere University scientists observed that the bran is safe but they have to be properly dried on polythene sheets and kept in dry places to avoid dampness which creates conditions for bacterial multiplication.

She said what the farmers need is to add cotton seed, silver fish (mukene), sun flower and other ingredients to make proper meals for poultry, pigs and other animals.

She said in terms of price, the banana bran is very cheap because a kilogramme costs Shs250 compared to a kilogramme of maize bran that ranges between Shs350-Shs500.

Mr Nadiope said the innovation has attracted many clients who buy the bran.

"Most clients are our members because they are aware of the nutritional value of the bran to their animals and birds but even nonmembers are slowly realising the magic," he said.

Ms Kawesa said the milling machine that the group uses was given to them on credit but they will be able to clear the debt from the profits they make.

*Source: The Monitor. Image: Funfacts.com*



## Africa: A hot frontier for U.S. and China

*By Emily Chang, CNN*

Beijing, China (CNN) -- As U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands with Chinese President Hu Jintao and the highest-ranking members of the Chinese Politburo, one has to wonder if he is sizing up the competition.

China appears to be leaving the United States in the dust by taking off on a global shopping spree from South America to the Middle East and especially Africa. The question is, can the U.S. keep up and does it want to?


The presidents did not address Africa in their joint statements on Tuesday in Beijing, but no doubt it is on both of their agendas.

So far this year, Obama has stopped in Ghana and Egypt while U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wrapped a seven-nation African tour in August.

Hu has stopped in Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Mauritius while Premier Wen Jiabao just attended the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Cairo. Among other things, he pledged $10 billion in loans to developing African countries. That is double what China promised at the same forum in 2006.

Wen emphasized that China is taking another step forward with its relationships with African countries. "This represents a new stage of development in relations with Africa," he said earlier this month.

So far this year, China's foreign direct investment in Africa is up 77.5 percent. China's trade with Africa has multiplied 10 times in the last decade to more than $107 billion. If anyone is keeping score, some analysts say the U.S. is behind.

"To my mind, the U.S. is already on the back foot in Africa," says David Kelly, Professor of China Studies at University of Technology Sydney. "The American public may not be terribly aware, but basically most of Africa thinks it's a great thing that China has come into the game, not necessarily because of the public goods that China provides or those alone, (but) because it must force America to raise its game."

As the son of a Kenyan, Obama may have won African hearts, but it is China's deep pockets that have been winning over African governments.

In the last few years, China has struck deal after deal with African countries, often buying natural resources in exchange for building infrastructure and providing loans. It is typical that the roads, hospitals, schools and more must be built primarily by Chinese workers.

In Gabon, the Chinese recently financed $800 million in railways, dams and ports in exchange for access to iron ore. Critics say China's actions have propped up dictatorships in Zimbabwe and Sudan. The Chinese have been supporting oil production in Sudan for years. China International Fund, a little-known Chinese company, reportedly signed a $7 billion mining deal with Guinea's repressive military regime.

In response to criticism, Wen recently stated, "There has long been the argument that China is plundering Africa's resources ... Anyone who is familiar with history would know that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Africa did not start just yesterday but as early as half a century ago. In those years, we helped Africa build the Tazara railway and sent to Africa large numbers of medical teams. But we did not take away a single drop of oil or a single ton of mineral ores from Africa."

Some leaders of African countries have indicated Africa will take money from anyone who is giving. "Foreign direct investment has no fixed allegiance or nationality - it goes where it is most welcome," said Ghanaian president John Atta Mills at a recent conference in Washington.

Large African communities are also forming in China, from Guangzhou to Beijing. Many of the migrants are traders and entrepreneurs hoping to make a profit by sending China's cheap manufactured goods back home.

Ethiopian David Bekele is searching for space to open a restaurant in Beijing. He says it would be the only Ethiopian restaurant in China. "Almost every African country has an embassy here in Beijing," says Bekele. "There's a huge number of students from Africa who come on scholarships funded by the Chinese government. And there are a lot of businessmen [who] come from Africa to buy goods and do trading."

While China's relationship with Africa strengthens, analysts say the United States may be too focused on the Middle East and, ironically this week, China to notice. Previous U.S. administrations placed Africa relatively high on their list of priorities. President George W. Bush's heavy investment in HIV and AIDS prevention on the continent is largely considered a success.

In early October, Obama supported a $3.5 billion hunger and food security initiative focused on agriculture over the next three years in developing countries. Much of the money is intended for Africa. However, at this stage Obama's Africa strategy has yet to be solidified.

But the vast opportunities in Africa are not without challenges. Poverty, corruption and instability are constantly changing the game. The question is how the U.S. and China choose to play.

Some analysts say Africa gives the U.S. and China a chance not necessarily to compete but to cooperate and to make vital changes on a developing continent. Zha Daojiong, Professor of International Relations at Peking University, says the U.S. and China should consider working together on humanitarian issues, including health care and food security.

"I think it is a meaningful issue for both governments to discuss," says Zha. "Clearly there is a great potential there. We should put the interests of the African people in the center of these considerations."

*Source: CNN*

# Interview of the month

## Rwanda: A Deal on 'Climate Change' is Long Overdue - Kamanzi

*by Edwin Musoni*

*Kigali — The Copenhagen summit on 'Climate Change' is scheduled for December. Expectations are high that this ground breaking conferences adopts a comprehensive pact with strategies on mitigating effects of Climate Change. Ahead of this conference, The New Times' Edwin Musoni interviewed Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Stanislas Kamanzi on Rwanda's position on this subject. Below are excerpts.*

*Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi, Rwanda Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*

**Soon Rwanda will conduct a national tree planting week, how unique will this particular event be?**

We have counted almost 20 million trees that are going to be planted and these encompasses forest species and agro forest species. We are hoping to cover almost 18,000 hectares throughout the country.

This event comes ahead of forthcoming Copenhagen conference on climate change; I think this will be a very important contribution of Rwanda in terms of compensating the carbon footprints of those who will be traveling to Copenhagen.

Definitely there will be a meeting on Carbon dioxide and planting trees means providing future carbon sinks and I want to use this opportunity to dedicate this tree planting event to that endeavor in terms of contribution to emissions of greenhouse gasses.

But, as far as we are concerned as Rwanda, this is going to contribute to increasing our area covered by forests which is in line with our

EDPRS and Vision 2020 target where we plan by 2012, to increase our forest coverage by 3.5% and by another 10 percent in 2020.

**Does the country have a forestry recovery programme?**

We can't say forestry recovery programme because as part of our land use and forestry policies, Rwanda has set up a clear vision with regards to bridging the gap between the rational needs from the forests and what can be availed in terms of forest production.

The need mount to 8 million cubic meters and the production available amount to 2 million cubic meters. This means that we need to fill this gap as quick as possible so whichever forest we talk about here is not about recovery its about bridging that very important gap.

Talking about the formalization of the policy into an implementable plan, currently we are working on a national forest plan which would be based on the already finalized district forest management plans.

In addition to that, we have also proceeded with the national forestry inventory which encompassed forests that cover over 1.5 hectares.

It is based on that fact that we are going to elaborate our national forestry plan which will give a plan for the future interventions.

I want to also insist that forestry has suffered a lot in the past as a result to the fast growing population in the country and competition with other land uses especially agriculture which has been very instrumental to development.

You know we have many places that were initially covered by national forests but were unfortunately cleared to accommodate human settlement and agricultural land uses here I would mention the case of Gishwati forest.

We all know that until mid 90s it was covering a huge area and now it is almost 1200 hectares which is a very small area compared to the initial surface area.

**There have been reports that Rwanda loses about $2.6m annually due to the fact that 80 percent of her inhabitants utilize firewood for domestic purposes. Would you confirm these reports?**

Unfortunately this has been a total wrong representation of facts by the media. The figures that were cited in terms of a loss came out when we were emphasizing the contribution of forestry towards national economy.

Annually forestry contributes to the national GDP a tune of Rwf 2.6 billion which amounts to 5 percent of the national GDP.

Definitely people do need wood and charcoal for domestic use and it has a value and we want to make it clear that the perception is not about the loss linked with tree felling but instead it should be perceived as earnings and a contribution to the growth of the country.

However, I would like to make another clarification and that is the objective of forestry development. On one hand we want to protect our environment but one should also look at forests from a financial point of view-it's an investment from which one should expect returns.

A tree grows and at a certain time it needs to be harvested for different purposes like production of biomass energy and other customary uses that generate money.

So felling trees is not a problem, the problem would be illegal or inappropriate felling of trees if you wipe out all the forest in the country that would a catastrophe but forest harvesting within a planned framework is very much welcome. Actually that is something that we have always highlighted as an incentive for investors henceforth relieving government since it has been the main player in forestry sector management.

**Do you have cases of illegal or inappropriate felling of trees?**

Yes, it has happened unfortunately in these past days and I would say it's unfortunate because most of most of these inappropriate cutting down of trees is linked to some development projects and programmes such as crop intensification and the new grouped settlement (imidugudu).

Talking about development, Rwanda is aimed at sustainable development and sustainable development should be based on sound environment if you don't take care of your environment you can't achieve sustainable development.

So, this is an opportunity for one to call upon people to stop illegal activities that hinder development.

There are people that were settled in the former Gishwati area, some of these people have since refused to be relocated, how is the government approaching this issue?

By the time you are asking me this question they are being relocated and as of Monday last week we were remaining with 19 families that were being prepared for relocation.

So this something that has already been sorted out and presently the people that used to stay in the forest area are now building up their houses in their new sites.

**Are there plans to recover the lost part of Gishwati forest?**

There was an assessment that was carried out and it indicated that there are zones which are referred to as very high risk zones that were previously used for agricultural and settlement purposes.

The plan is now afforesting them systematically. It unfortunate we will not be able to afforest them with indigenous species but we are going to use exotic species that are suitable to those areas.

**On the issue of global climate change, what signs is Rwanda beginning to experience?**

We have been witnessing a lot of disturbances in our usual weather trends with delays in rainfall seasons or sometime a situation where there is too much rain in a very short period or lengthy droughts.

In the Western Province we have not had a single droplet of rain in a month of November which is not normal.

Now, if we talk of delayed rainfall, we are talking about problems in agriculture especially in this situation where our agriculture is fully dependent on rain. Same if the dry season comes earlier than expected.

**The west has been called upon to financially compensate developing nations for the damages caused by climate change, what is the official stand of Rwanda in this debate?**

You might be aware that Africa is going to Copenhagen with one single voice. Each  country has its own vision with regards to climate regime.

As far as Rwanda is concerned, we believe that the world should seriously embark on reducing substantially green house gasses. This goes by adopting green technologies and other production practices that are environmental friendly.

This is something that we will enforce. Some countries what to put it as a condition that European countries should cut emission and even compensate for what they have caused as damage in the past for them to be able to embark on that same trend. The issue of compensation shouldn't be a condition. People have to go in a synergic manner in making sure that this is dealt with and avoid going into a blame game.

So in Rwanda we think that unconditionally mitigating climate change is paramount for our world to be able to overcome the negative impact of climate change. As far as we are concerned, we endeavor indeed to have this translated into concrete actions-ensuring that we go green production and protect our environment.

**So what is the position of Rwanda on this issue of compensation?**

Well, let's not talk about it in terms of compensation because it's not that easy for some people to disperse money to other countries given the nature of technicalities involved in this subject.

Instead we believe that that there cooperation opportunities by way of equity and social economic justice where by these countries contributing immensely to pollution of the atmosphere partner with developing countries which don't pollute.

They would partner in terms of helping in developing adaptation programs that would assist in coping with the negative impact of climate change.

This goes with financing those programs. We are talking about agriculture that depends on rainfall-if we can't have predictable rainfall regime we should embark on something else that would help us sustain our agriculture and this would be for instance by way of irrigation schemes which are very costly.

We would expect developed countries to assist countries that have such programs so that they can be financed in a sustainable manner.

Now, how do we ensure that emissions are not increasing? You go by proper technologies which unfortunately we don't have in this part of the world.

When we talk about mitigation we are talking about developing carbon sinks which need to be protected and managed in an appropriate manner. Therefore instead of talking about writing cheques for countries we should instead be talking about partnership.

**How sure are you that in Copenhagen you will have a deal? And if you don't how sure are that you will have partnership?**

Sure, the level at which the negotiations are indicates that it will be unlikely to have a legally binding deal. Now, if the West decided to ignore the effects of climate change, their economies will definitely keep on growing but until when?

If you don't do it now then you spend a lot of money and resources in future trying to clean up what you messed up.

I don't think the populations of the developed world will always support their governments in this endeavor and for this to be fixed there will be some costs.

So the most sustainable way to deal with this issue is going by those partnership---get the developed world to know that they need to go as one and prevent those climate-related catastrophes from happening.

Developed world should have interest in cooperating with the developing world because it's a moral obligation.

So the logic here is for partnerships to be built up rather than for each single geographic or economical entity to go their way. That won't be healthy and it will not be in the interest of either parties.

**Global leaders have been very optimistic about Copenhagen but in case there is no deal reached, what will be the next option?**

Whether there is a deal in Copenhagen or not, Rwanda will be going for that and will promote any new approach to deal with climate change.

**On this issue of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement what is the current state of signing the agreement?**

It is unfortunate that it remains a stand still. We had hoped that since May that we would move quickly following the extraordinary meeting of the Nile Council of Ministers that took place in Kinshasa and one that took place in Alexandria, Egypt in July.

From Kinshasa we had decided that we go ahead and sign the agreement as it had been agreed upon by the negotiators and endorsed by the council of ministers except as regards article 14 b that was claimed by Egypt and Sudan.

Kinshasa had provided for a room where by this outstanding issue would be discussed in a way that would accommodate each and everyone's interests.

Unfortunately, later on Egypt and Sudan disassociated themselves with the decision from Kinshasa. Since we are looking forward to a cooperative framework agreement that takes on board all the partners within the NBI, in Alexandria we had given ourselves an additional six months for all the countries to consider ironing out their own issues and see how they can adhere to the general consensus and this came up as Egypt was taking over the new chair of the Nile Council of Ministers.

Unfortunately, what I observed recently is that the initiative or the way leading to concluding the negotiations is splitting into two different directions.

On one hand we have seven downstream countries which believe that we should go ahead and sing the agreement and have the Nile Basin Commission established as a permanent commission. On the other hand we have Egypt and Sudan still stuck on these historical rights.

From Alexandria we had also mandated our technical advisors, together with the negotiators to come up with clear proposals leading to the final signature of the CFA which we had hoped would take place in February. Their team met Kampala sometime last month and unfortunately the same difficulties arose.

Precisely, we are having on one side a group of countries that are willing to proceed with the negotiation and on the other side two countries that are not willing to go by the same direction.

Our hope was that Egypt in their position as the chair on the Nile-Com would actually be cooperative and clear the way towards the signing but there indications that it won't happen easily.

**What if these difficulties persist, would the seven countries go ahead and sign without Egypt and Sudan?**

It is something that can be considered, why not, provided that it is still in line with the international regulations on trans-boundary water bodies.

It is something that can be considered but we hope we don't go that direction, either way we can think of another arrangement which would be joined later by countries that want to cooperate with those initiating it.

**Don't you think it's high time you involve Heads of States to take on the negotiations of this particular agreement?**

You see, the nature of the treaty is much more based on technical grounds. It has no political considerations that would involve Heads of States.

When we talk about water resources within the Basin, there is no way you can deal with that through politically based conceptions, it doesn't work.

Its technical and we have to go about it technically. The involvement of Heads of States would come in to bless what technicians have done.

We are pushing so hard to have work done in a more appropriate way and we don't want our Heads of States to handle matters that are supposed to have been solved on a technical point of view.

*Source: allAfrica.com, Images: orinfor.gov.rw & UN Habitat*

## Country Stats - Zambia

| | |
|---|---|
| **Capital** | **Lusaka** |
| **Area** | **753,000 sq km** |
| **Total Population 2008** | **12.2 Million** |
| **Urban Population 2008** | **35.37%** |
| **Female Population 2008** | **50.13%** |
| **GDP 2008** | **US$ 14.3 Billion** |
| **GNI Per Capita 2007** | **US$ 800** |
| **Inflation Rate 2008** | **8.58%** |
| **Crude Birth Rate (per 1000) 2008** | **38.79%** |
| **Human Development Index (scale 0 to 1) 2006:** | **0.453** |
| **ADB Membership Date:** | **01/09/1966** |
| **Cumulative Approvals (1967-2008):** | **UA 780.9 Million** |

*Source: Africa Development Bank.*

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