

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**AFRICA
ENERGY
INDABA**
SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICA
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

**5 – 7
MARCH
2024**

CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa



Government Host



Strategic Partner



Trade Association Partners



Premium Partner



For 16 years the Africa Energy Indaba (AEI) has been a rendezvous for energy sector leaders and experts. The achievements highlighted at AEI 24 stand as a testament to the collective ambition and concerted efforts directed towards achieving a prosperous energy future for Africa while being responsible towards society at large and the physical environment.



OVERVIEW

This year's gathering served as a vibrant showcase of Africa's efforts to forge an investment-friendly climate while addressing the pressing issue of energy poverty and expressing a comprehensive vision for the continent's energy future. Through a combination of policy insight and strategic initiative discussions, the conference set the stage for a continued journey towards a clean and equitable energy landscape, aligned with the broader goals of economic growth and carbon reduction. The AEI 2024 not only represented a considerable milestone in the collective journey towards a sustainable energy future but also stood out as a resounding success by all measures. Participants from across the globe garnered invaluable insights into the complexities and opportunities within Africa's energy sector through a wide scope of discussions, workshops, and keynote speeches. In addition, the event provided a dynamic platform for networking, allowing attendees to forge invaluable contacts that span continents and sectors. These interactions, facilitated by the various platforms available at the AEI, have sparked partnerships poised to drive innovation and progress in the energy landscape. The synergy of ideas and

the convergence of diverse perspectives underpinned the Indaba's role as a crucible for transformative solutions, making it an unmissable event for anyone invested in Africa's energy future.

Transformative projects

The conference pinpointed the imperative challenges confronting the energy sector, with an emphasis on realising stable economic growth and eradicating energy poverty through a diversified energy strategy aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Central to the conference's agenda was the discourse on Africa's concerted efforts towards a seamless transition into a low-carbon energy future. This ambition will be achieved through the strategic implementation of coherent policies and transformative projects, all geared towards diversifying energy sources to effectively address the pressing electricity supply-demand imbalance. Such initiatives simultaneously reflect Africa's commitment to environmental stewardship and its dedication to fostering an energy ecosystem that is resilient, clean, and inclusive, marking a significant stride towards realising the continent's envisioned energy paradigm.





African commitment

As a critical forum for catalysing the conversation, AEI 24 focussed on the pivotal role of South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (IPPPP) in guiding the country towards an energy landscape marked by diversity, sustainability, and reduced carbon footprint. Hosting a focused South African Energy Investment Forum as part of the AEI in partnership with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the event offered a unique opportunity to reflect on whether these programmes could be as effective in expanding energy access and ongoing commitment to environmental preservation in other African countries.

Collaboration

The event's role in fostering a collaborative ecosystem was markedly evident, encouraging the exchange of ideas and enhancing partnerships among diverse stakeholders. This collaborative spirit underscored the importance of a unified approach in tackling the multifarious challenges of the energy sector

while capitalising on opportunities for sustainable development. A notable achievement in this communal endeavour has been the substantial rise in registered generation facilities, especially those augmenting the mining sector. This development not only facilitates optimal operational capacities for businesses, thereby strengthening their contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but also illustrates the broader community's active participation in the energy transition. The emphasis on collective effort and shared responsibility accentuates a significant stride towards an inclusive and eco-friendly energy future, reflecting a communal commitment to not just navigating the energy landscape's complexities but thriving within it.

Renewables

The conference provided new insights and shared experience on energy trends, with a focus on renewable energy and the strategies to integrate it into the national grid. There was considerable discussion on the important role of natural gas as a complimentary fuel to support the increased use of wind and solar. The Indaba firmly established a vision for a

resilient and prosperous energy future for Africa, emphasising the strategic incorporation of gas and renewable energy in the continent's energy transition. The focus on exploring and developing natural resources, including uranium and natural gas, was highlighted as essential for ensuring energy security and propelling economic growth. Particularly, the emergence of gas as a pivotal energy source, supported by recent discoveries and the confirmed economic viability of shale gas, demonstrates its potential to revolutionise the energy landscape.

Moreover, the integrated role of nuclear energy alongside gas in facilitating a just energy transition represents a forward-thinking approach, delineating a comprehensive roadmap for Africa's energy sector. This multipronged strategy, focusing on diversification and sustainability, positions the continent on a path towards not just addressing its immediate energy needs but also securing a sustainable energy future, leveraging its natural resources and technological advancements.



The Honourable Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy [South Africa], Mr. Gwede Mantashe, highlighted the strategic thrust towards diversifying the energy portfolio, emphasising the prominence of renewable energy sources and the groundbreaking decision to lift the moratorium on shale gas exploration, aiming to bolster energy independence.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Honourable Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy [South Africa], Mr. Gwede Mantashe, delivered key insights, clearly setting out the envisaged trajectory for Africa's energy landscape. Furthermore, the Minister underscored the remarkable strides made by South Africa in enhancing electricity access - from a mere 34% in 1994 to an impressive figure exceeding 92% today - while concurrently spotlighting the persistent challenges and the government's strategic initiatives aimed at fortifying the energy sector's capacity and ensuring its long-term sustainability. The comprehensive review of South Africa's journey since 1994, achieving remarkable progress in electricity access, set the tone for a forward-looking discourse. Minister Gwede Mantashe's address was a cornerstone, articulating a robust response to the looming challenge of natural gas supply, particularly considering Sasol's withdrawal

from Mozambique by 2026. His advocacy for an energy-agnostic stance, coupled with a firm commitment to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) of 2019 and its subsequent updates, set an action-focussed tone for the conference. Mantashe highlighted the strategic thrust towards diversifying the energy portfolio, emphasising the prominence of renewable energy sources and the groundbreaking decision to lift the moratorium on shale gas exploration, aiming to bolster energy independence. Furthermore, his announcement regarding the intended development of 2,500 megawatts of nuclear power illustrated the South African government's proactive strategy to secure a sustainable and diversified energy mix, signalling a dedicated effort to navigate South Africa towards a resilient energy future. This narrative reflects a proactive stance by the South African government in addressing the twin challenges of limited grid capacity and aging infrastructure. By implementing a series of decisive actions, including substantial

investments in baseload energy sources, renewable energy initiatives, and forward-thinking projects such as the Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) in Leandra, Mpumalanga Province, the government is navigating towards a balanced transition to low carbon emissions. Fundamental to this endeavour is the IPPPP, which has been essential in diversifying the energy mix through successful and new procurement rounds for renewables, gas, and battery energy storage. These concerted efforts, in tandem with targeted measures to address the electricity supply-demand imbalance and foster investments in alternative energy sources, embody a meticulous and multifaceted strategy. The strategic acknowledgment of nuclear power within the IRP 2019 and the initiative to extend the operational life of Koeberg Nuclear Power Station further exemplify the government's commitment to ensuring energy sustainability and securing a future where energy is abundant.














2024 Theme: *African Energy – Transitioning from Aspiration to Action
[Delivering a Sustainable and Prosperous Future]*

CONFERENCE AGENDA

- Future Prospects for African Energy
- Maximising the Value of Africa's Natural Resources
- Investing in Africa's Energy Infrastructure
- Are Development Financial Institutions Helping?
- Wheeling, Virtual Wheeling and Private Sector Power Trading.
- Will Africa meet its Net-Zero Targets?
- Energy Storage & Growth Potential
- Is There a Role for Oil in Africa's Energy Transition?
- Digitisation for a Sustainable Future African Energy Sector
- Development in Off-Grid and Mini-Grid Solutions for Africa
- Transmission Grids - The Pathways to African Prosperity
- Embedding Green Energy Solutions into African Manufacturing
- How will Mobility Developments Impact on Africa's Energy Sector?
- Demand Side Imperatives
- Future Developments in Renewable Energy.
- What is the African Model for a Just Energy Transition?

SIDE EVENTS

-  Gas Forum
-  IPP and PPA Forum
-  Hydrogen Forum
-  Electric Vehicle Forum
-  Renewables Indaba
-  Nuclear Forum
-  Chief Executive Roundtables
-  Energy Leader Dialogues
-  Regulators Conference
-  Women in Energy
-  The South African Energy Investment Forum with the DMRE

CONCLUSION

The Africa Energy Indaba 2024 encapsulated the unified resolve towards sculpting a clean and inclusive energy future for Africa. By integrating innovative initiatives and strategic frameworks, the conference has illuminated a path that confronts energy poverty head-on, strengthens energy security, and carves out a just route towards a low-carbon economy. This year's gathering not only confirmed the continent's dedication to renewable and sustainable energy solutions, but also highlighted a pivotal moment in Africa's ongoing saga of energy transformation. The outcomes and discussions from the Indaba stand as a compelling narrative of Africa's energy sector's vibrancy, its readiness for substantial innovation, and its potential for growth. In essence, the Indaba has laid down the groundwork for future endeavours, promising a horizon rich with opportunities for energy advancement, economic development, and environmental stewardship across the continent.



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