

SolarTech Power Solutions

New energy storage capacity configuration in West Africa



Overview

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.

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.

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.

How has energy storage changed in 2022?

This has resulted in an increase in energy storage levels in recent years. In 2022, the continent had around 50MWh of energy storage capacity installed. Since then, energy storage capacity tripled in 2023 and then experienced another 10-fold increase in 2024. Image: AFSIA Solar.

Why is Power pooling important in West Africa?

The relaxed transmission scenario yields higher dispatch factors for renewables. Power pooling has emerged as a regional strategy for accelerating generation capacity expansion in West Africa with the aim of leveraging vast domestic energy resources and promoting investment in

regional power infrastructure.

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 Kodení and Nagréongo solar plants in Burkina Faso and a 250MW solar / hydropower hybrid plant in Ghana.

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