

Photo Credit: ANKA Madagascar



AMDA SPOTLIGHT MID-YEAR 2025 REVIEW

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AMDA SPOTLIGHT

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Foreword



As we reflect on the first half of 2025, it is with immense pride and optimism that I present the second edition of *AMDA Spotlight*. This period has been marked by intensified collaboration, deeper market engagement, and a renewed commitment to our shared mission: accelerating Energy Access across Africa. A cornerstone of our work this year has been the launch of the third edition of the *Benchmarking Africa's Minigrids (BAM)* Report. This is not a static publication; it is a living testament to the sector's evolution—offering critical data and insights that

empower policymakers, investors, and developers alike. The BAM Report continues to serve as our compass, driving evidence-based decision-making and reinforcing transparency across the ecosystem.

One of AMDA's proudest milestones was our partnership with the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) to co-host the 8th *Minigrid Action Learning Event (ALE)* in Lusaka from 1–3 April, along with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and other partners. This truly felt like a “coming-of-age” moment for our association—a sentiment echoed by some of our most valued partners. We were especially proud to secure sponsorship from REPP 2 (managed by our long-standing partner Camco), which enabled over 35 representatives from 25 member companies to attend, fostering invaluable peer-to-peer learning and connection. During this pivotal event, the minigrid sector presented a unified front alongside policymakers, investors, and donors, underscoring our collective push for scale and long-term sustainability.

The ALE also provided the opportunity to further institutionalise the *Minigrid CEO Roundtable*, offering a platform for strategic C-suite-level exchange that continues to shape the future of the distributed renewable energy (DRE) sector. This period also witnessed significant momentum behind *Mission 300 (M300)*—an ambitious commitment by African governments and global

partners to connect 300 million people to electricity by 2030. AMDA remains fully engaged in ensuring that DRE, particularly minigrids, plays a central role in realising this vision. We continue to advocate for policies and investments that recognise the speed, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness of minigrid solutions.

As part of our commitment to strengthening local markets, we launched a series of *Country Missions*, beginning with Madagascar. This deep dive provided vital first-hand market intelligence, reinforced our presence, and enabled us to offer tailored support to our members on the ground. We look forward to expanding these strategic engagements across the continent in the months ahead. In the same spirit of collaboration, we are delighted to announce a landmark partnership between AMDA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The partnership will drive joint efforts in technical assistance, policy advocacy, capacity building, innovation, and resource mobilisation – including direct support to the \$50M Africa Minigrids Programme (AMP). This collaboration represents a significant step towards aligning public and private sector efforts to fast-track access to reliable, clean energy for underserved communities.

On a personal note, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our outgoing Board Members. Your wisdom, commitment, and resilience have been instrumental in AMDA's journey thus far. Thank you for your dedicated service—we wish you the very best in your future endeavours. Looking forward, we are especially energised by the upcoming launch of *AMDA Capital Connect*—a platform designed to catalyse critical investment into the sector. We believe this will be a transformative step toward unlocking capital at the scale and pace needed to drive Universal Energy Access.

Thank you for your continued dedication and partnership. Together, we are not only building minigrids—we are building a brighter, more sustainable energy future for Africa.



Olamide Niyi-Afuye

Chief Executive Officer, Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA)

Our Impact in Figures

59

MEMBER COMPANIES

24

COUNTRIES WHERE AMDA MEMBERS OPERATE IN

21

INNOVATION EXCHANGE FORUMS

45

FACILITATED INTRODUCTIONS

Our members' Impact

600+

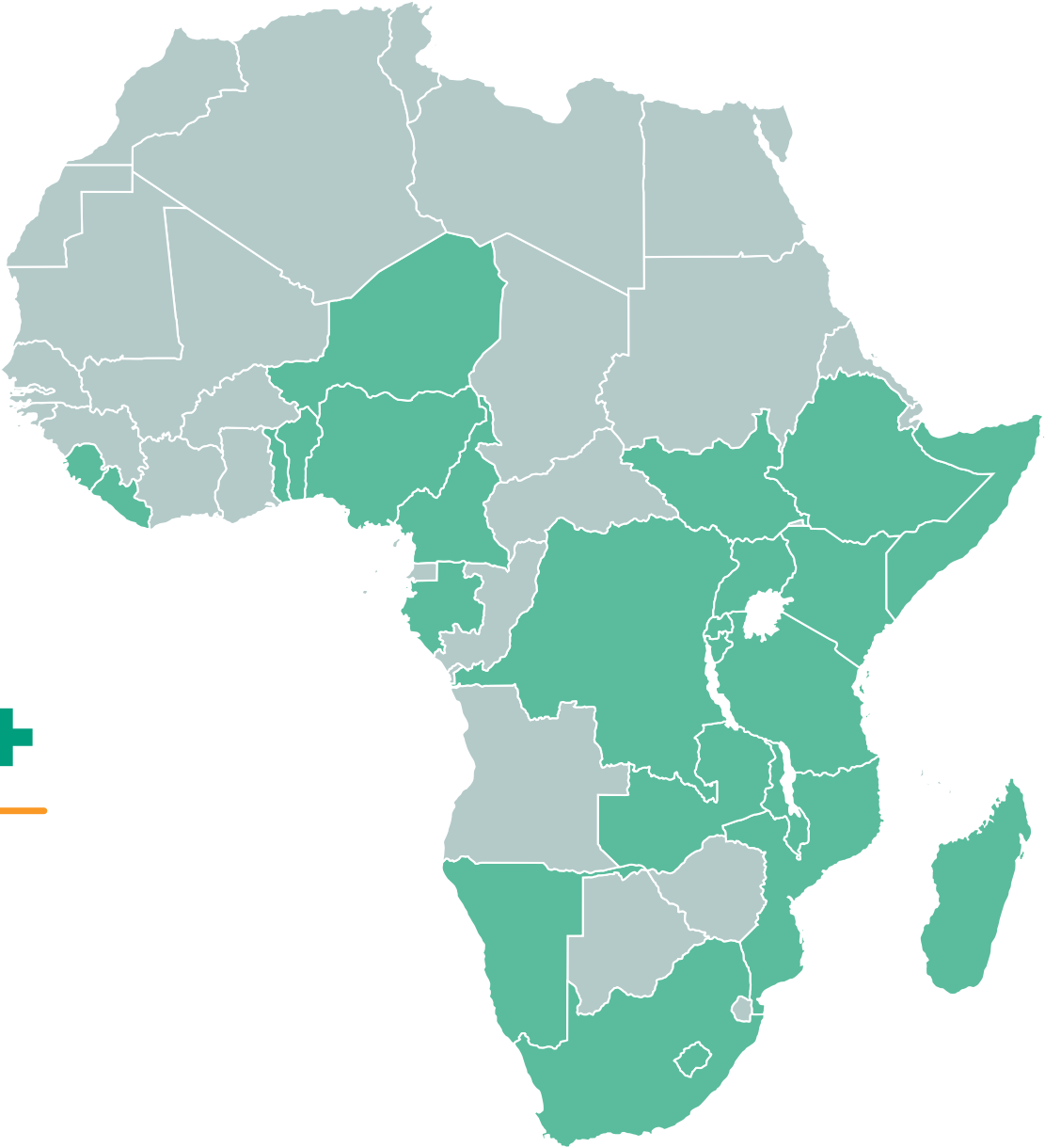
MINIGRIDS DEPLOYED

127,000+

INSTALLED CONNECTIONS

1,000,000+

PEOPLE IMPACTED BY ACCESS TO MINIGRID ELECTRICITY



PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES



Photo Credit: ANKA Madagascar

Delivering Member Value

Minigrid CEO Roundtable

On the sidelines of the 8th Minigrid Action Learning Event, AMDA proudly hosted the first in-person CEO Roundtable of the year, bringing together minigrid leaders for a high-level exchange in Lusaka.

Building on the momentum of our May 2024 event in Lagos, Nigeria, this intimate gathering sparked dynamic discussions around the future of minigrid financing, operations, and sector-wide collaboration.

These CEO roundtables continue to be a cornerstone of AMDA's work—creating space for candid dialogue, peer learning, and alignment on key priorities that will drive the industry forward.

Key Takeaways:

- Standardize and Streamline Investment Tools & Processes
- Innovative Financing Structures & Capital Mobilization
- Promote Coordination Between Developers & Investors
- Build an Enabling Policy & Institutional Environment
- Accelerate Sector Readiness Through Data, Technical Assistance & Market Intelligence

Innovation Exchange Forums

AMDA Innovation Exchange Forums are online webinar series where suppliers, solution providers and other stakeholders in the minigrid sector showcase the latest innovations in hardware, software, financing and other tools aimed at addressing challenges faced by minigrid developers and providing a pathway to scale and sustainability. We held 8 IEFs sessions from January to July 2025 that cut across different segments including cold chain management, climate finance and e-cooking solutions.

New Members



Access to Capital



AMDA Capital Connect

A major highlight of ALE 2025 was the successful launch of the AMDA Capital Connect (formerly AMDA AfIDA Catapult Session), a strategic initiative designed to bridge the gap between minigrid developers and private investors. This unique program pairs developers with investors and industry mentors, culminating in a closed-door pitching session aimed at unlocking the capital needed to scale.

During ALE, six vetted minigrid companies had the chance to pitch directly to a panel of potential investors and financial institutions. The results were immediate and encouraging: one developer received an investment offer on the spot!

Finance Series Workshops

The Access to Capital Workshops are a series of online sessions designed to connect minigrid developers with essential financial acumen and funding tools.

These workshops provide a platform for developers, investors, and financial institutions to explore opportunities, share insights, and discuss strategies aimed at overcoming capital challenges.

We kicked off this year with our third workshop aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of the legal intricacies of achieving financial close, ensuring alignment with best practices, and fostering sustainable partnerships within the minigrid sector.



Finance Series Vol.3: Mastering International Investment in Minigrids

Research, Data & Standards

The Launch of the 3rd edition of Benchmarking Africa's Minigrids

Another major milestone this year was the launch of the third edition of the Benchmarking Africa's Minigrids (BAM) Report by AMDA — unveiled at the 8th Minigrid Action Learning Event in Lusaka. While this edition provides valuable data and insights into the sector, it is not a static document. BAM is designed to be a living resource—regularly updated to reflect new data, trends, and developments. As Africa's minigrid sector evolves, the report must also adapt to ensure it continues to inform effective policies, financing strategies, and implementation efforts based on the latest realities on the ground.



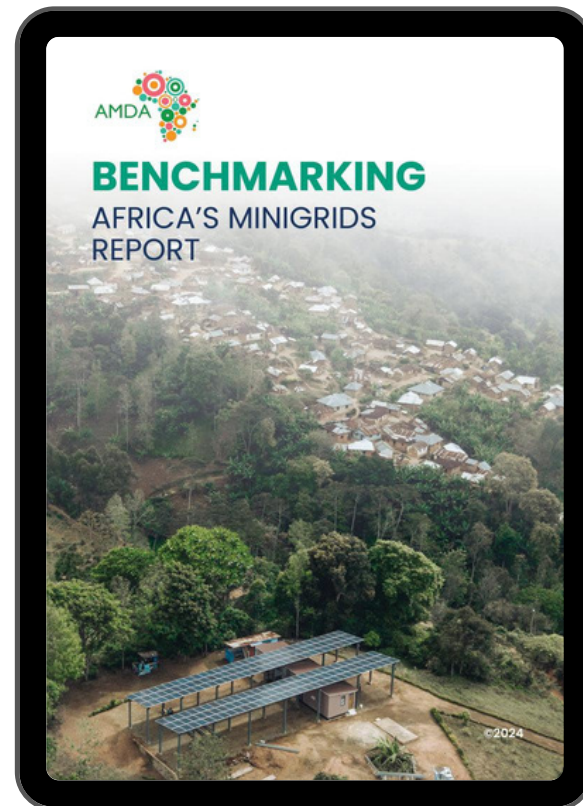
As **Anita Otubu**, Senior Director at SEforAll, aptly put it: “This report provides the most comprehensive, data-backed analysis of Africa’s minigrid industry—shedding light on costs, performance, and investment trends. By benchmarking real-world data from developers, the report gives us clear insights into what works, what does not, and where we need to improve.”



Jude Numfor, the CEO and Founder of REI-Cameroon said: “The Benchmarking Africa’s Minigrids Report is a major achievement, helping us to see what is happening in the sector, and helping minigrid developers know where to go and where to put efforts.”



Wim Jonker Klunne, Renewable Energy & Energy Access Expert “This stellar piece of work does not only take stock of where we are right now as a sector, it also helps in understanding the way forward, and how current and new initiatives can help in advancing the sector.”



[CLICK HERE TO
ACCESS THE REPORT](#)

Policy, Regulatory & Regional Coordination

Minigrid Country Reports

AMDA has also been able to deliver market insights and contribute to country reports which in turn is promoting the universal understanding of minigrids as a mainstream infrastructure solution to achieving the close of the electrification gap in Africa. The country reports are developed as part of an ongoing effort to inventory the current policies, regulations, and import duties affecting Distributed Renewable Energy Systems and Minigrids in key energy access deficit countries across Eastern and Southern Africa.



[Tanzania Report](#)



[Uganda Report](#)

Market Coordination Sessions

AMDA has expanded its regional coordination efforts through its **Market Coordination Sessions**. The sessions are aimed at identifying existing policy and regulatory challenges in said countries and taking bold steps to advocate the governments (policy makers, regulators, etc.) in favor of ensuring the continued scale up and sustainability of the sector. This year AMDA has held two sessions, one for Nigeria and another for Cameroon.



Nigeria's Market Coordination Session clearly showed the urgency needed in addressing the huge energy access deficit in the country - with over 80 million people unserved and underserved. Stakeholders discussed about streamlined approvals, inter-agency efficiency and stronger support for developers. AMDA presented targeted access to capital programmes designed to ensure projects bankability and sustainable sector growth in the West African country.



Cameroon's Market Coordination Session highlighted robust minigrid potential in the Central African country, supported by national electrification strategies, despite challenges such as inadequate regulatory frameworks, financial constraints and grid encroachment risks. AMDA is actively advocating for better and clearer framework and institutional coordination as well as improved access to capital to further unlock the sector in the country.

African Model MiniGrid Regulations Tool

As part of our ongoing partnership with the African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR), AMD A is proud to have contributed to the development of the newly launched [African Model MiniGrid Regulations Tool](#).

This IT-based tool is designed to support regulators and policymakers in crafting or refining minigrid regulations that are both aligned with international best practices and tailored to specific country contexts.

Country Missions

➤ In Accra, Ghana, AMD A participated in the Phase 2 training of the AFUR-hosted program on Minigrid Tariff Settlement Tools and Methodologies. This session brought together regulators, policymakers, and developers to explore innovative tariff approaches that support sustainable minigrid growth. Regulators from Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe were present as they were part of Phase 1, early adopters already trained. For Phase 2 early adopters—including Liberia, Togo, Cameroon, Gambia, and Congo Brazzaville— training will commence in August 2025.



➤ We kicked off our strategic country mission with a visit to Madagascar, which provided deep insights into the country's evolving decentralized renewable energy (DRE) sector. AMD A strengthened relationships with local stakeholders and visited ANKA Madagascar's solar minigrid site in Mangily, which is powering five communities. In addition, meetings were held with public sector actors to reinforce collaboration between the private and public sectors within the country, as well as to facilitate cross-country knowledge sharing between regional agencies. We look forward to expanding these strategic engagements across the continent in the months ahead.



SECTOR EVENTS



Photo Credit: Renewvia

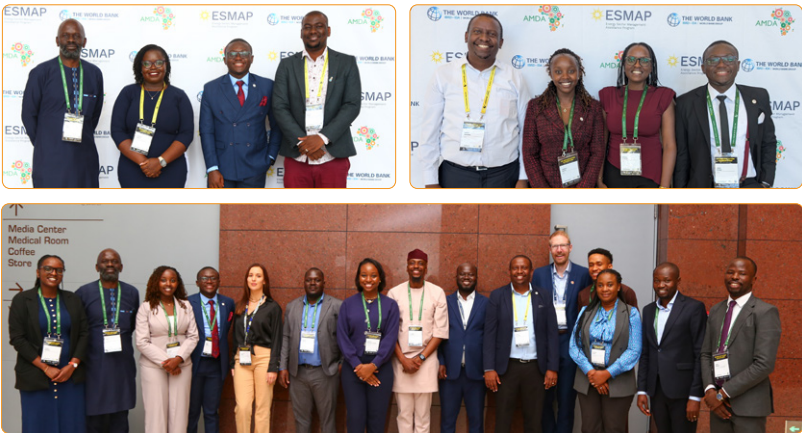
8th Minigrid Action Learning Event (ALE)

One of the standout moments of the first half of the year was AMDA’s strong presence at the 8th Minigrid Action Learning Event (ALE) in Lusaka, held in partnership with ESMAP, COMESA and other partners — a defining milestone for our community and the broader sector.

ALE 2025 was more than just a convening; it was a bold reaffirmation of our collective mission to accelerate energy access across Africa. The atmosphere was electric—fuelled by candid reflections, pioneering ideas, and a shared determination to push boundaries and deliver impact where it matters most.

From breakthrough regulatory reforms and game-changing financing models to the rising momentum around innovations like Interconnected Minigrids and Meshgrids, ALE made it clear: the future of electrification is collaborative, dynamic, and within reach.

A special thank you to SmartEnergy Limited, an AMDA member, for showcasing their innovative containerised minigrid solution. Your leadership in innovation is helping move the sector forward.



At the 8th Minigrid Action Learning Event in Lusaka, Zambia, AMDA member [SmartEnergy Limited](#) showcased its groundbreaking containerized mini-grid system—an innovative, all-in-one solution integrating solar generation, advanced energy storage, and efficient distribution technology within a single, compact container. The live demonstration highlighted the system’s rapid deployment capabilities, modular design, and potential to power both remote communities and industrial sites across Zambia.

Mission 300

AMDA continues to play its role in advancing the Mission 300 initiative, which seeks to connect 300 million people in Africa to electricity by 2030. With distributed renewable energy (DRE) solutions—including minigrids—expected to deliver at least half of this target, unlocking scale is both urgent and achievable.

Earlier this year, AMDA participated in the Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit held in Dar es Salaam, and subsequently contributed to the follow-up Private Sector Consultation in London. At both convenings, AMDA represented the voice of Africa’s minigrid industry, helping shape the roadmap for scaling DRE and minigrid solutions across the continent.

Key takeaways from the consultations include:

- **Enabling Policy and Business Environment** – Encouraging progress was shared from the first cohort of National Compacts, with more countries joining the initiative. This signals growing political will across Africa to create a regulatory environment that supports clarity, consistency, and private sector participation in minigrid deployment.
- **Funding at Scale** – Delivering on Mission 300 will require a paradigm shift in how capital flows into the sector. Long-term, affordable, and patient capital must replace short-term, fragmented approaches. In this context, the emergence of equity vehicles such as the Africa50 DRE Fund and the Zafiri Fund represents a significant step forward. AMDA is actively working to ensure that our members’ pipelines are well-positioned to access these instruments and other catalytic funding solutions.
- **Importance of Accountability** – Establishing clear KPIs and robust mechanisms for tracking progress will be vital to ensuring delivery, transparency, and impact across the Mission 300 ecosystem.

- **Cross-Sector Collaboration** – Minigrids and DRE are a foundation for rural economic development. Their transformative power is best realised through strategic partnerships with sectors such as Commercial and Industrial (C&I), agriculture, telecommunications, e-mobility, and clean cooking. Such integration will be essential to unlocking the full socio-economic potential of rural electrification.

As the initiative gains momentum, AMDA remains committed to ensuring that private sector DRE companies are not only heard but equipped to lead this charge—turning ambition into sustainable energy for the millions of Africans.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Photo Credit: ARC Power

AMDA & UNDP

At the Africa Energy Forum 2025, AMDA strengthened its collaboration with global partners through both action and commitment. In partnership with UNDP, IFC, and AfDB's SEFA, we co-hosted a hands-on workshop focused on real-world minigrid case studies—offering practical insights into planning, regulation, and financing in challenging contexts.

During the same forum, AMDA signed a landmark MoU with UNDP, aimed at accelerating sustainable minigrid deployment through joint efforts in policy advocacy, capacity building, and support for the \$50 million Africa Minigrids Program (AMP). These engagements reflect the vital role of cross-sector partnerships in scaling energy access across the continent.



MoU Signing



Workshop

Youth and Talent Partnership

AMDA is actively committed to fostering significant opportunities for African youth in the energy transition, extending beyond traditional employment into entrepreneurship, innovation, and ownership.

- **Youth Sustainable Development Network:** create an enabling environment for young people to implement SDGs solutions.
- **Student Energy:** to foster broader youth participation through targeted research and engagement.





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Photo Credit: ENSOL

AMDA members **OnePower**, **Energicity**, and **SustainSolar** are driving clean energy access with support from CEI Africa. The funding will enable over 1,600 new minigrid connections, the distribution of nearly 600 solar freezers and EVs, and the deployment of modular solar systems with equipment financing—showcasing continued leadership and innovation across the continent.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Photo Credit: One Power

Meanwhile in Nigeria, a significant milestone was marked with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) signing MoUs with leading renewable energy companies, including AMDA members **Ashipa Electric Ltd** and **SOSAI Renewable Energies**.

This partnership highlights a new era of energy access focused on local content manufacturing, while advancing affordability, reliability, and energy independence for households, businesses, and communities across the country.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



In Kenya, **Renewvia Energy** secured a USD 4.475 million loan from CEI Africa to expand solar minigrid operations in Turkana County, Kenya. This milestone will deliver clean, reliable electricity to over 15,000 new connections in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement, transforming energy access in underserved communities.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Renewvia signing deal

In Zambia, AMDA members **ENGIE Energy Access** and **One Power** have been selected to receive funding under the ZEDSI programme, enabling the development of 43 new minigrids to power over 7,000 people in rural Zambia. Supported by SEforALL, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Universal Energy Facility, the project will electrify homes, schools, businesses, and health centers—advancing inclusive development and resilience.

[READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)



Photo Credit: ENGIE Energy Access



Tamarso continues to drive impactful solar solutions, with a notable achievement being the successful delivery of a 50kW solar installation at SOS Hospital and Village in Somalia.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



In Madagascar, AMDA members **ANKA** and **CrossBoundary Access** have partnered to launch an ambitious \$20 million minigrid portfolio.

This initiative is set to deliver reliable electricity to more than 62,000 people by 2026, further solidifying the transformative potential of private sector-led electrification in underserved regions.

[READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)



Award winning
PROJECTS

Prado Power Limited's NGN 3.9 billion Green Infrastructure Sukuk was awarded *Best Project Bond in Africa*, recognizing its pioneering role in green, local currency financing. The project will deploy four solar-hybrid mini-grids across rural Nigeria, powering over 15,000 households and businesses while supporting job creation and emissions reduction.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Announcement



**BEST PROJECT BOND
IN AFRICA 2024**



PRADO POWER LIMITED'S NGN3.9BN 7-YEAR
INFRA-CREDIT-GUARANTEED FIXED RATE SENIOR GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE SUKUK ISSUANCE.



Sosai Renewable Energies has been awarded The Ashden Award for Breaking Barriers (Global South) in recognition of its transformative work in northern Nigeria. Through its Climate Smart Village model, Sosai delivers solar minigrids that not only power communities but also empower women with energy access, training, and entrepreneurial support—breaking cultural barriers and driving inclusive economic growth.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



On the ground with GRANVILLE



Granville Energy, spearheaded by its Founder and CEO Tabi T. Tabi, is dedicated to expanding access to decentralized power solutions across Africa.

Their report, titled "**South Africa's Minigrid Revolution: Unpacking the Regulatory Adjustments that Unlocked Deployment**," provides an insightful examination of the specific regulatory adjustments enacted primarily from 2021 onwards, which have been crucial in unlocking minigrid deployment and fostering broader distributed generation within the country.

Key takeaways:

- ▶ South Africa **eliminated licensing requirements for generation facilities of unrestricted capacity in January 2023**, building on the August 2021 increase from 1MW to 100MW, which **unlocked over 80 projects** and significantly reduced bureaucratic hurdles.
- ▶ The **Electricity Regulation Amendment Act of 2024** is foundational, as it aims to end **Eskom's century-long monopoly** and **establish an open, diversified market system** with an **Independent Transmission System Operator (TSO)** to ensure fair grid access for all producers.
- ▶ Minigrids are now recognized as **"strategic assets"** and **"a cornerstone of modern energy systems"** for South Africa, pivotal for addressing the severe energy crisis, enabling **socio-economic development**, and providing reliable, inclusive energy access, particularly in unserved or underserved regions.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE REPORT](#)

COMING SOON...



Photo Credit: NURU

AMDA Capital Connect

In the effort to scale this program, what was launched as AMDA-AfIDA Catapult Program has now rebranded as **AMDA Capital Connect**.

AMDA Capital Connect aims to connect minigrid developers with private investors. This program matches developers and investors, followed by a mentorship period, culminating in a closed-door pitching session. The AMDA Capital Connect goal is to help developers secure the capital needed for scaling.

Participating investors gain direct access to vetted, investment-ready projects, simplifying their investment decisions and saving time in opportunity identification.



Upcoming Publications

As part of our growing suite of knowledge resources and strategic publications, AMDA will be releasing several impactful reports throughout the remainder of 2025.

- **The French edition of the Benchmarking Africa's Minigrids (BAM) Report** will expand accessibility and engagement across Francophone Africa, supporting data-driven decision-making.
- **Digital BAM** is a pilot initiative aimed to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of sector insights
- **Country-focused insights from Madagascar and the DRC** will offer in-depth analysis of market dynamics, policy environments, and investment opportunities specific to each national context



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Outgoing Board

As we mark this important midpoint in the year, we pause to extend our deepest appreciation to AMDA's outgoing Board of Directors: Vivian Vendeirinho, Ayodeji Ademilua, Brad Mattson, Folusho Alabi, and Dario Fallara. Your leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in guiding AMDA through a period of significant growth, resilience, and renewed strategic focus.

From advancing critical policy advocacy to deepening member engagement and helping shape the organisation's evolving direction, your contributions have left an indelible mark on AMDA and the broader minigrid sector.

We are also profoundly grateful to Jude Numfor, Mukabanji Mutanuka, and Wim Jonker Klunne, whose board tenures ended earlier but whose support and guidance were equally pivotal. Each of you played an essential role in strengthening AMDA's foundation and helping chart our course in this new chapter.

Thank you for your service, your passion, and your belief in the power of decentralised energy to transform lives across Africa. We are proud to build on the legacy you leave behind.



Vivian Vendeirinho



Ayodeji Ademilua



Dario Fallara



Folusho Alabi



Brad Mattson

Special Thanks to Our Partners

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and funders for their unwavering support over the past year. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving our mission forward and making a tangible impact in the communities we serve. Together, we are creating lasting change and empowering individuals to build better futures. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership in our shared journey towards a brighter tomorrow.





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