

South Korea and Africa: Partnerships for Climate and Energy



30Years Anniversary

대한민국 · 남아프리카공화국

1992 - 2022



History of Korea's relationship with Africa

- Historically, Korean interest in Africa has focussed on the continent's abundance of minerals and energy reserves.
- With the expansion of the country's manufacturing industry in the 1990s, Korea looked toward Africa to diversify its business opportunities
- Relations with Africa were formalised in the early 2000s with then president Roh-Moo-hyun's visit to Algeria, Nigeria and Egypt
- In 2006, the "Year of Friendship with Africa was launched", followed by other important initiatives such as the Korea-Africa Forum, the Korea-Africa Economic Co-operation Conference and the Korea-Africa Foundation



Korea's Climate Policy Landscape

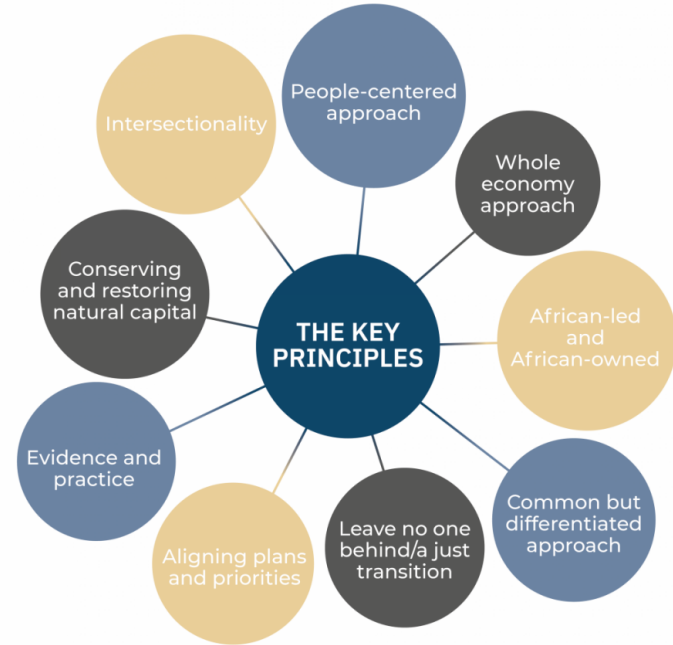
- In recent years Korea has developed an **ambitious climate policy landscape**. This includes:
 - [2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy](#)
 - [National Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap \(2030\)](#)
 - [Carbon Neutral Green Growth Framework Act](#);
 - An ambitious [NDC](#); and
 - A mandatory emissions trading scheme
- Developments in Korea's climate policy landscape have begun to shift traditional Korea–Africa trade, investment and aid dynamics. For example:

The Energy Master Plan aims to reduce energy imports by 18% and increase renewable energy by 30-35% by 2040.

Africa's Common Climate Response and Action Plan

- The AU endorsed the African Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032) on 6 February 2022 which seeks to promote a regional response to climate change
- In light of financial and capacity constraints Africa will need to call on key partners to help operationalize the Strategy
- To enhance its strategic relationship with Africa, Korea needs to ensure that its investment priorities on the continent are aligned with the key priority areas identified in the strategy.

Key principles that underpin the AU Climate Strategy



What are the opportunities for collaboration?

1. Africa holds large amounts untapped renewable energy potential

- Renewable energy generation and investment have increased significantly.
- Southern Africa currently holds the most installed renewable capacity on the continent
- But , a lack of institutional capacity, technical skills and finance continues to hinder large-scale renewable energy projects.
- In 2021 Korea committed to provide \$600 million in co-financing renewable energy projects formalised through the signing of the Korea–Africa Energy Investment Framework pact with the AfDB

Renewable Energy Projects in Africa (MW)

African region	Operating renewable projects (capacity)	Renewable projects under construction (capacity)
Southern Africa	24 840	10 095
East Africa	10 402	15 201
North Africa	13 111	100
West Africa	6 298	5 481
Central Africa	4 253	2 209

2. Africa is abundant in green minerals used to manufacture renewable energy technologies

- The DRC holds approximately 70% of the world's cobalt and Zimbabwe has the largest lithium deposit in Africa
- The World Bank predicts that the extraction of these minerals is likely to increase by 500% by 2050
- Increasing Korea's trade relations with Africa for green mineral supplies will help to sustain and grow Korea's dominance in the global battery value chain

Mineral	Country	Share of global reserves	Share of global production
Bauxite	Guinea	24%	15%
Copper	DRC	2%	5%
	Zambia	2%	4%
Cobalt	DRC	51%	57%
Graphite	Mozambique	8%	<1%
Iron ore	South Africa	1%	3%
Manganese	South Africa	30%	31%
Nickel	South Africa	4%	2%
Phosphate rock	Morocco	72%	12%
Titanium	South Africa	8%	5%

3. Smart cities and infrastructure developments

Korea's success at implementing smart city governance holds significant opportunities for technology cooperation with local African governments. For example:

- Busan Metropolitan City and Busan Techno Park collaboration with AfDB to pilot drone technology for monitoring climate change impact's on Tunisia's agriculture sector
- Development of a Bus Rapid Transport system in Nairobi

Korean companies have played a pivotal role in infrastructure development in Africa. African countries can leverage PPPs to unlock additional capital and expertise to execute long-term, climate-resilient infrastructure projects.



5. Capacity building and community development for climate-resilient agriculture

- In 2004 Korea established the [Knowledge Sharing Program \(KSP\)](#) and in 2010 the [Korea-Africa Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative \(KAFACI\)](#) was established
- Korea's community development model, the *Saemaul Undong* movement (the 'new village' movement), has influenced community development projects in several African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
- Climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices are essential for Africa's development and continues to underpin frameworks such as the AU Climate Change Strategy.



Key lessons

The AU Climate Change Strategy should continue to inform Korea's strategic interests in Africa for partnerships on climate and energy. This includes:

- Identifying opportunities to implement large scale infrastructure and smart city innovation projects aligned to national development plans
- Collaborate on renewable energy investment and green mineral extraction
- Continue to share knowledge on community development models and agricultural management best practice to capacitate local rural communities

Ultimately institutions such as the Korea-Africa Foundation can help to identify these opportunities and can help to facilitate public and private sector collaboration on sustainable development initiatives in the continent.

Thank you