



AFRICA GREEN JOBS

Taxonomical Guide

Green Economy Terminologies for
Africa's Priority Sectors

FIRST EDITION | 2026



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A–Z DICTIONARY OF TERMS

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Preface

Africa's green economy is expanding faster than the vocabulary used to describe it. As the continent's twelve priority sectors, from energy and agriculture to green digital and blue economies, attract growing volumes of climate finance, policy attention, and private investment, practitioners, researchers, students, and policymakers increasingly encounter a dense and fast-evolving lexicon. Much of this terminology has been developed elsewhere, in contexts far removed from Africa's specific ecological, economic, and social realities.

The Africa Green Jobs Taxonomical Guide was created to close that gap. Beyond a glossary of global green economy terms, it provides an Africa-contextualised reference, built around the Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Guide (ACGTG) and the African Continental Qualifications Framework's (ACQF) Green Dashboard Africa, and grounded in real examples drawn from across the continent, from Kenya's geothermal fields and Rwanda's forest restoration programmes to Nigeria's green bonds and Ghana's circular waste enterprises.

The guide aims to give anyone working in or entering Africa's green economy a shared, accurate, and locally rooted vocabulary. Whether you are a student encountering these terms for the first time, a green finance professional structuring a taxonomy-aligned instrument, or a policymaker drafting a national green jobs strategy, this guide is designed to be a working tool, one you return to, rather than one you read once.

This first edition covers all twelve ACGTG priority sectors and will be revised as the taxonomy, the market, and the continent's green economy evolve. We welcome feedback from practitioners and institutions using this guide in the field, as it is precisely that use that will shape future editions.

Acknowledgements

This guide reflects the collective effort of two institutions committed to advancing Africa's green economy: Jacob's Ladder Africa and Study Sustainability Hub. Their partnership, combining sustainability research and practitioner expertise, shaped both the scope and the rigour of this first edition.

Study Sustainability Hub led the technical development of the taxonomy alignment and terminology framework underpinning this guide, with Dr. Enoch Opare Mintah coordinating this work on the organisation's behalf.

Jacob's Ladder Africa contributed the applied, practitioner-facing perspective that grounds each entry in real African case studies and sector practice.

We also gratefully acknowledge our partners, FSD Africa and the Center for Global Development team, for their valuable input and feedback throughout the development of this guide.

Jacob's Ladder Africa and Study Sustainability Hub also thank the organisations and initiatives referenced throughout this guide, whose work across Africa's green economy provided the real-world grounding for its terminology.

Glossary of Acronyms

The following acronyms recur throughout this guide and are expanded here for reference before first use in the A–Z dictionary.

ACRONYM	FULL TERM
ACGTG	Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Framework
ACQF	African Continental Qualification Framework
AFAWA	Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa
AFRI00	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AMDA	Africa Minigrid Developers Association
AMI	Advanced Metering Infrastructure
AQI	Air Quality Index
ARC	African Risk Capacity
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
AWS	Alliance for Water Stewardship
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
C2C	Cradle to Cradle
CIFOR–ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research–World Agroforestry
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy (Ethiopia)
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa)
CSP	Concentrated Solar Power
CSRD	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
DNSH	Do No Significant Harm
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EDGE	Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (IFC green building certification)
EEDSM	Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
EV	Electric Vehicle
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

ACRONYM	FULL TERM
FIT	Feed-in Tariff
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FSCA	Financial Sector Conduct Authority (South Africa)
GBCSA	Green Building Council of South Africa
GERD	Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Agency)
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
ICCN	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JET-IP	Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (South Africa)
JSE	Johannesburg Stock Exchange
KAZA	Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy
LVEMP	Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme
MCI	Material Circularity Indicator
MSS	Minimum Social Safeguards
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Kenya)
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ND-GAIN	Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (Country Index)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (South Africa)
NEMWA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act (South Africa)
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa

ACRONYM	FULL TERM
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIFC	Nairobi International Financial Centre
NMT	Non-Motorised Transport
NSE	Nairobi Securities Exchange
NZEB	Net Zero Energy Building
ORASECOM	Orange-Senqu River Commission
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PHEV	Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle
PIC	Public Investment Corporation (South Africa)
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme (Ethiopia)
PV	Photovoltaic
RECS	Renewable Energy Credits
RECP	Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (UNIDO programme)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REFIT	Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (Uganda)
SANEDI	South African National Energy Development Institute
SCI	Software Carbon Intensity
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission (Nigeria)
SLMP	Sustainable Land Management Programme (Ethiopia)
SPP	Small Power Producer (Tanzania)
SSEG	Small Scale Embedded Generation (South Africa)
TCFD	Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
TSC	Technical Screening Criteria
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VCM	Voluntary Carbon Market
WAVES	Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSUP	Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor
WTE	Waste-to-Energy

How to Use This Dictionary

The Africa Green Jobs Taxonomical Guide is a comprehensive sector-focused terminology reference aligned with the Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Guide (ACGTG) and the African Continental Qualification Framework's (ACQF) Green Dashboard Africa. It serves as an Africa-contextualised dictionary, covering terminologies across all twelve ACGTG priority sectors.

Sector tags appear on every entry to indicate which ACGTG priority sector(s) a term belongs to. In some parts, these sectors are further aligned with appropriate objectives and tiers

in the examples provided, where applicable, to enhance understanding and positioning of the terminology. These tags make it easy for green economy practitioners, researchers, and students to navigate terminologies relevant to their specific sector. Use the ACGTG explainer, which provides excerpts of the Guide to understand the 12 priority areas, the objectives and the tier classification system. For in-depth understanding and access to the full report of the Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Guide, visit <https://www.sustainabilitynewsafrika.com/> to download a free copy.

The Twelve ACGTG Priority Sectors

Energy & Power Systems	ENERGY
Sustainable Agriculture	AGRICULTURE
Transport & Mobility	TRANSPORT
Buildings & Urban Infrastructure	BUILDINGS
Water & Blue Economy	WATER BLUE ECO.
Waste & Circular Economy	WASTE CIRCULAR
Forests, Biodiversity & Natural Capital	FORESTS BIODIVERSITY
Manufacturing & Industry	MANUFACTURING
Sustainable Tourism	TOURISM
Green Digital Economy	GREEN DIGITAL
Green Finance & Capital Market Instruments	GREEN FINANCE
Health & Social Infrastructure (Climate-Linked)	HEALTH SOCIAL

The Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Guide (ACGTG) Explainer

The ACGTG identifies twelve priority sectors for green classification, drawing from the sectoral coverage of all six launched African national taxonomies and the AfDB/AFAC continental framework. For each sector, the ACGTG defines eligible activities; the primary ACGTG objective(s) to which they substantially contribute; key technical screening criteria; and Africa-specific contextual notes. The following matrix provides the consolidated sector-level framework.

The ACGTG establishes six core objectives that define the space of environmental and socio-economic outcomes eligible for green classification. These objectives synthesise the objectives of South Africa's GFT (South African National Treasury, 2022), Kenya's GFT (Central Bank of Kenya, 2025), Zambia's taxonomy (UNDP, 2025), and the AfDB/AFAC continental framework (AfDB, 2025), while incorporating Africa-specific adaptations:

OBJECTIVE 1: Climate Change Mitigation

OBJECTIVE 2: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

OBJECTIVE 3: Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources / Blue Economy

OBJECTIVE 4: Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency, and Pollution Prevention

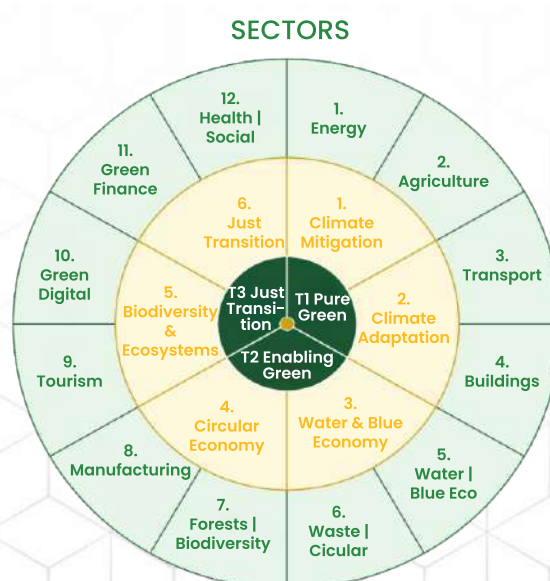
OBJECTIVE 5: Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration

OBJECTIVE 6: Just Transition and Economic Inclusion

A distinctive and essential feature of the ACGTG is its three-tier classification system, inspired by Ghana's multi-phase taxonomy approach and South Africa's accommodations for mining and natural gas transition activities (Ministry of Finance, Ghana, 2024; South African National Treasury, 2022). This system recognises that Africa's green transition cannot be achieved overnight, and that the binary "green or not green" architecture of first-generation taxonomies is insufficiently nuanced for Africa's complex economic reality

Relationship between the Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Guide (ACGTG) Eligibility Tiers, Environmental Objectives and Priority Sectors.

The ACGTG classifies economic activities according to three eligibility tiers. Eligible activities contribute substantially to one or more of the six environmental objectives and are implemented across twelve priority sectors of the African green economy. The concentric-ring structure illustrates how the tier classification forms the foundation for environmental objectives, which are operationalised through sector-specific activities.



12 ACGTG Priority Sectors | 6 Environmental Objectives | 3 Eligibility Tiers

Afforestation

A

Abatement ENERGY | MFG.

Abatement means taking action to reduce or remove harmful pollution, especially greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, from the atmosphere. It applies to any economic activity that cuts emissions through technology substitution, process change, or fuel switching.

Example: Dangote Cement in Nigeria has invested in alternative fuel programmes, replacing heavy fuel oil in its kilns with biomass waste, which is a direct abatement action that reduces CO₂ per tonne of cement produced, aligned with ACGTG Tier 3 decarbonisation criteria.

Active Transport TRANSPORT

Active transport is moving from place to place using your own physical energy, such as walking, cycling, or non-motorised movement, rather than fossil-fuelled vehicles. It is one of the most cost-effective urban GHG-reduction strategies, particularly suited to Africa's dense, walkable urban structures.

Example: The City of Cape Town's NMT (Non-Motorised Transport) Strategy has invested in dedicated cycle lanes along major corridors in the city centre, enabling thousands of daily commuters to cycle to work. In Kampala, boda-boda (motorcycle taxi) operators are being transitioned to e-bikes as part of an active and electric mobility convergence programme.

Adaptation ALL SECTORS

Adaptation means adjusting behaviour, infrastructure, or systems to deal with current or projected climate change impacts. Under the ACGTG, climate change adaptation is the second of six core objectives, receiving equal structural weight to mitigation and reflecting Africa's position as the world's most climate-vulnerable continent despite emitting less than 4% of global greenhouse gases.

Example: In the Sahel, the Great Green Wall Initiative, spanning eleven countries from Senegal to Djibouti, represents Africa's largest climate adaptation project. Burkina Faso's Yacouba Sawadogo pioneered the revival of Zaï planting pits to restore degraded farmland, a community-scale adaptation technique that has since spread across millions of hectares across West Africa.

Afforestation FORESTS | AGRICULTURE

Afforestation is the planting of new forests in places where there were no forests before. It is done to absorb carbon dioxide, restore ecosystems, and fight climate change. Unlike reforestation (which replants existing forest land), afforestation creates entirely new forest cover on previously treeless land.

Example: Kenya's Wangari Maathai Green Belt Movement has led community-based afforestation across previously degraded grasslands in the Rift Valley and Central Kenya, creating entirely new forest patches that now provide watershed and biodiversity benefits. Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative targets the afforestation of 20 billion trees on degraded land, including highland areas previously used as marginal farmland.

Air Pollution

Ag-Energy Nexus AGRICULTURE | ENERGY

The Ag-Energy Nexus refers to the interdependence between agriculture and energy systems, where access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy enhances agricultural production, processing, storage, irrigation, and market access, while agricultural activities also contribute to energy production through bioenergy and agricultural residues. Strengthening the nexus improves food security, climate resilience, and rural economic development.

Example: With an estimated 75% of sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural output coming from smallholder farmers, many without grid access, solar-powered irrigation is already reshaping incomes: solar water pumps can increase farmers' annual income by 50% or more compared with rainfed irrigation. Programmes supported by organisations such as Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the Africa Minigrids Program demonstrate how renewable energy investments directly improve agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

Agrichar (Biochar) AGRICULTURE

Agrichar, commonly known as biochar, is a type of stable charcoal made from plant materials like crop residues, leaves, and wood through pyrolysis, a process of heating organic matter without oxygen. When added to agricultural soils, it improves soil fertility, water retention, and microbial activity while storing carbon for centuries and contributing to climate mitigation.

Example: In Ghana, the Cocoa Farmers' Association has piloted biochar application in Ashanti Region cocoa farms using husks and agricultural waste, demonstrating measurable improvements in soil structure. The Biochar Project, operating in East Africa, supports smallholder farmers in Kenya and

Tanzania to produce and apply biochar, selling associated carbon credits through voluntary carbon markets.

Agroforestry AGRICULTURE | FORESTS

Agroforestry is a land use system that deliberately integrates trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock on the same land, creating ecological and economic synergies. It is one of the ACGTG's primary eligible activities under both Climate Change Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation objectives and is especially suited to African smallholder farming systems.

Example: Olam Agri operates extensive cocoa-agroforestry programmes across Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, intercropping shade trees with cocoa plants to sequester carbon, improve soil health, and increase cocoa yields simultaneously. Kenya's Green Belt Movement, founded by Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, trained rural women across Kenya to plant over 51 million trees in agroforestry systems.

Air Pollution HEALTH | SOCIAL

Air pollution occurs when harmful gases, dust, chemicals, or particulates are released into the atmosphere, making it unsafe to breathe and damaging ecosystems. In the African context, air pollution from biomass burning, informal waste disposal, vehicle exhaust, and industrial emissions is a leading cause of respiratory disease and is directly linked to ACGTG health and social infrastructure priorities.

Example: Nairobi's growing fleet of matatu (minibus) traffic and reliance on heavy fuel oil generate severe urban air pollution. The Kenyan government's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are being enforced more stringently, while Nairobi-based start-up Enviu has developed low-cost air quality sensors for community-

Battery Storage

level monitoring. In Accra, Ghana, the open burning of electronic waste in Agbogbloshie generates toxic air pollution, documented by Pure Earth as one of the world's most polluted sites.

Air Quality HEALTH | SOCIAL

Air quality refers to the cleanliness and safety of the air in a given environment. Good air quality means low concentrations of pollutants harmful to health and ecosystems. It is measured by the Air Quality Index (AQI). Under the ACGTG, improving air quality is linked to the DNSH (Do No Significant Harm) criteria for pollution across all priority sectors.

Example: South Africa's Air Quality Act sets ambient air quality standards monitored by the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS). In Johannesburg, AirQo, an African air quality monitoring network developed at Makerere University in Uganda, deploys low-cost sensors across East and West African cities to provide real-time air quality data to communities and governments previously without access to such information.

Alternative Energy ENERGY

Alternative energy is energy produced from sources other than fossil fuels, such as solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, or sustainable biomass. Under the ACGTG, renewable energy generation is the flagship eligible activity under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation). Africa has some of the world's highest solar irradiance levels, making it a primary opportunity zone for alternative energy deployment.

Example: KenGen, Kenya's dominant electricity generator, produces over 80% of Kenya's electricity from geothermal, hydro, wind, and solar sources. The Lake Turkana Wind Power project (310 MW) in northern Kenya is

one of Africa's largest wind farms, providing power to 1 million Kenyan households. In South Africa, Scatec Solar operates some of the continent's largest utility-scale solar PV plants across the Northern Cape.

Avoided Emissions ENERGY | FORESTS

Avoided emissions are the greenhouse gases that are not released into the atmosphere because a cleaner or more sustainable alternative was chosen instead of a conventional, higher-emission option. They are central to carbon credit project design and to demonstrating the climate value of ACGTG-eligible investments.

Example: M-KOPA Solar in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria has connected over 3 million low-income households to solar home systems, displacing kerosene lamps and diesel generators. Each system avoids approximately 0.5 tonnes of CO₂ per year – collectively representing one of Africa's largest corporate avoided emissions portfolios outside of utility-scale renewable energy.

B

Battery Storage ENERGY

Battery (energy) storage refers to systems, from small household batteries to utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and mini-grid batteries, that store electricity generated from solar or other renewable sources for use when the sun is not shining, or the grid is down. It underpins the reliability of Africa's renewable energy transition, stabilising grids, firming intermittent solar and wind generation, and extending power

Biogas

access to communities and businesses beyond the reach of transmission lines.

Example: Africa's utility-scale storage pipeline is accelerating fast: the continent currently has 28 BESS projects over 50 MWh, with installed capacity projected to grow as much as 700% between 2025 and 2030. South Africa leads deployment, having added 2,052 MWh of new storage capacity in 2025 under its Battery Energy Storage Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme, while at the household and mini-grid level, falling battery costs are driving broader access, with lithium-ion battery prices having fallen more than 90% since 2010 and now dominating the off-grid solar market with an 8–10 year lifespan.

Biodiversity FORESTS | AGRICULTURE

Biodiversity is the variety of all living organisms on Earth, including plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, and the ecosystems they form. It is essential for food security, climate regulation, clean water, and human health. Under the ACGTG, Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration is the fifth of six core objectives.

Example: The Congo Basin Rainforest, spanning the DRC, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, and the Central African Republic, is the world's second-largest tropical forest and the most biodiverse ecosystem in Africa, hosting over 10,000 plant species and 1,000 bird species. Organisations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF work with the DRC's Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) to protect this critical global biodiversity asset.

Biodiversity Offsetting FORESTS | MFG.

Biodiversity offsetting is a conservation mechanism where environmental harm caused

by development is compensated by creating or restoring equivalent biodiversity elsewhere, aiming for “no net loss” or a net biodiversity gain. Under the ACGTG, biodiversity offsetting is a Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) tool used when projects risk negative biodiversity impacts.

Example: In South Africa, the mitigation hierarchy embedded in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) requires developers to offset unavoidable biodiversity impacts. Sasol's biodiversity offset programme in KwaZulu-Natal has established protected natural habitat areas equivalent to land degraded by its industrial operations. In Kenya, the standard environmental impact assessment process requires a biodiversity offset plan before large infrastructure projects can be approved.

BIOGAS PLANT



Biogas ENERGY | WASTE

Biogas is a renewable fuel produced when organic matter, such as food waste, crop residues, or animal manure, breaks down without oxygen in a digester, producing methane and CO₂. It is an ACGTG-eligible activity under both Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) and Objective 4 (Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency).

Example: Sistema Biobolsa, operating across Kenya and Nigeria, has installed thousands of small-scale biogas digesters for smallholder farmers, enabling families to turn livestock waste into cooking gas and organic fertiliser. Kenya's Biogas for Better Life programme, co-

Blue Economy

funded by the Dutch government and HIVOS, has supported over 100,000 household biogas installations, reducing firewood dependence and indoor air pollution.

Biomass Energy ENERGY

Biomass energy is renewable energy produced from organic biological materials, including agricultural residues, forestry waste, food waste, and dedicated energy crops, that can be combusted, gasified, or converted to biogas or biofuels. It is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Climate Change Mitigation when produced sustainably and not at the expense of food security or biodiversity.

Example: Husk Power Systems operates hybrid mini-grids in rural Tanzania and Nigeria, using rice husks, an agricultural waste stream, as feedstock for biomass gasifiers that power rural businesses and households with clean electricity. Biomasssters in Kenya convert sugarcane bagasse from sugar mills into biomass briquettes as a charcoal alternative for urban households.

Biophilic Design BUILDINGS

Biophilic design is an architectural and interior design approach that incorporates natural elements such as plants, natural light, water features, wood, and organic materials into built environments to improve occupant well-being, productivity, and connection to nature. In African climate contexts, biophilic design often overlaps with passive cooling strategies that reduce energy demand.

Example: The Netafim Africa headquarters in Johannesburg incorporates extensive indoor planting, natural ventilation corridors, and water features into its office design, achieving measurable improvements in staff productivity. In Kenya, the Strathmore University Energy Research Centre building

was designed with large glazed facades and internal courtyards that maximise natural daylight, integrating biophilic principles with energy efficiency targets.

Blue Carbon WATER | BLUE ECO.

Blue carbon refers to carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes. These ecosystems sequester carbon at far higher rates per hectare than terrestrial forests and are therefore powerful climate mitigation assets. Under the ACGTG, blue carbon conservation is eligible under Objective 3 (Water and Marine Resources) and Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation).

Example: Mozambique holds one of Africa's largest mangrove forest areas – approximately 400,000 hectares along its Indian Ocean coastline. The Mikoko Pamoja project in Kenya's Gazi Bay is Africa's first mangrove blue carbon project, generating carbon credits by protecting and restoring mangroves while channelling revenues to local coastal communities for schools and clean water. WWF and Conservation International are expanding blue carbon mapping across East African coastal nations.

Blue Economy WATER | TOURISM

The blue economy refers to the sustainable use and management of ocean, lake, and river resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and ecosystem health. Under the ACGTG, it falls under Objective 3: Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources. Africa's 54 nations share access to four oceans and seas and the world's largest network of freshwater lakes.

Example: Seychelles issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in 2018, a USD 15 million issuance supported by the World Bank and Global Environment Facility, funding

Carbon Market

sustainable marine fisheries and ocean conservation. Mauritius, through its Blue Economy roadmap, has established marine protected areas and sustainable aquaculture frameworks. In Nigeria, the Blue Economy Policy of 2022 targets unlocking the country's Atlantic coastal economy.



Carbon Credit ALL SECTORS

A carbon credit is a certificate representing the reduction or avoidance of one tonne of CO₂ (or equivalent) from the atmosphere. Carbon credits allow organisations to offset unavoidable emissions by financing verified emission reduction projects. Under the ACGTG, carbon credits generated from eligible activities in African sectors can be traded on both voluntary and compliance carbon markets.

Example: South Pole and Wildlife Works Carbon operate REDD+ forest protection projects in the DRC and Kenya, respectively, generating carbon credits purchased by international corporations to offset their emissions. Kenya's Northern Rangelands Trust has generated millions of carbon credits through community-managed rangeland conservation, channelling revenues directly to Samburu and other pastoral communities as a biodiversity and livelihoods co-benefit.

Carbon Intensity MANUFACTURING | ENERGY

Carbon intensity is the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced per unit of output such as per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated, per tonne of cement produced, or per unit of GDP. Under the ACGTG Technical Screening Criteria,

carbon intensity thresholds define whether activities qualify as Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 green activities.

Example: South Africa's Eskom has one of the highest carbon intensities of any national utility in the world, at approximately 900g CO₂ /kWh, compared to a global benchmark of under 100g CO₂ /kWh for new power under ACGTG. The Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) is steadily reducing grid carbon intensity as wind and solar replace coal in the energy mix. Nigeria's Dangote Group has published carbon intensity reduction targets for its cement and refining operations as part of its ESG roadmap.

Carbon Market GREEN FINANCE

A carbon market is a trading system in which entities buy and sell carbon credits or emission allowances. African countries are increasingly active in voluntary carbon markets, with growing interest in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which enables international carbon trading between countries. Under the ACGTG, carbon market instruments are eligible activities under Objective 11 (Green Finance).

Example: Zimbabwe in 2023 implemented a new Carbon Trading Policy requiring 50% of all carbon credit revenues from projects within its territory to be retained by the government, a regulatory development that sent significant reverberations through the voluntary carbon market. South Africa's Carbon Tax Act, enacted in 2019, created a domestic compliance carbon market for large emitters. Egypt's voluntary carbon market, launched in 2022 on the Egyptian Exchange, is North Africa's first institutionalised carbon trading platform. Kenya is a leading African voluntary carbon market hub, accounting for roughly 23% of the continent's issued credits as of 2026. The market is rapidly

Circular Economy

expanding, driven by the Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulations, 2024, and is increasingly a major national export.

Carbon Pricing GREEN FINANCE | ALL

Carbon pricing is a policy mechanism that puts a direct financial cost on greenhouse gas emissions, incentivising businesses and governments to reduce their carbon footprint. It includes carbon taxes (a fixed price per tonne of emissions) and emissions trading schemes (where allowances are bought and sold). Under the ACGTG, carbon pricing is a key policy instrument aligned with Objective 11 (Green Finance).

Example: South Africa's Carbon Tax, at ZAR 236 per tonne of CO₂e (2024), is Sub-Saharan Africa's first national carbon tax, covering large emitters in energy, manufacturing, and industry. Rwanda's Climate Fund mobilises domestic resources by pricing climate risk in public expenditure. SAFCOL (South African Forestry Company) incorporates internal carbon pricing into its plantation management decisions to align with decarbonisation pathways.

Carbon Sequestration FORESTS | AGRICULTURE

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in long-lived carbon pools such as forests, soils, wetlands, or geological formations. It is a central mechanism of ACGTG Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration) and is monetised through carbon credits in voluntary and compliance markets.

Example: The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded African forest and land by 2030, sequestering billions of tonnes of CO₂. Rwanda's forest restoration programme has restored over 745,000

hectares of degraded land since 2011, driven by tree-planting policies and community forestry. Trees for the Future operates in Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Cameroon, supporting smallholder agroforestry systems that sequester carbon while restoring soil fertility.

Carbon Tax GREEN FINANCE | MFG.

A carbon tax is a fee charged by governments on the carbon content of fossil fuels or on greenhouse gas emissions, designed to make polluting activities more expensive and incentivise the switch to cleaner alternatives. It is a primary policy instrument for internalising the social cost of carbon and is directly linked to ACGTG Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation).

Example: South Africa's Carbon Tax Act (2019) introduced Africa's first national carbon tax, initially set at ZAR 120 per tonne of CO₂e and progressively increasing. The tax applies to large emitters in the energy, industrial, and commercial sectors. Zimbabwe is developing a carbon tax framework as part of its alignment with the ACGTG Tier 3 transition provisions. Ghana's environmental levies on certain fuels serve a similar carbon pricing function.

Circular Economy WASTE | MFG.

The circular economy is an economic model that eliminates waste and pollution, keeps products and materials in use, and regenerates natural systems, in contrast to the traditional linear "take, make, dispose" model. Under the ACGTG, it is the foundation of Objective 4: Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency, and Pollution Prevention.

Example: Wecyclers in Lagos, Nigeria, use a bicycle-based collection system to collect recyclables from low-income households, sorting and selling materials to recyclers while paying households in mobile credit.

Climate Finance

Safisana in Ghana converts faecal sludge and organic waste into biogas, organic fertiliser, and animal feed, which is a closed-loop system that simultaneously addresses sanitation and circular agriculture needs. In South Africa, Nampak operates one of Africa's most advanced packaging recycling systems, recovering aluminium, glass, and plastic from municipal waste streams.

Clean Cooking HEALTH | ENERGY

Clean cooking refers to technologies and fuels for cooking and heating that produce minimal indoor air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), biogas, electric cooking, and advanced biomass stoves. Over 900 million Africans still cook on open fires or traditional stoves, making the clean cooking transition one of the continent's most critical climate, health, and gender equity challenges.

Example: PayGo Energy in Kenya and Uganda provides LPG on a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) model, making clean cooking accessible to low-income households through prepaid smart cylinders. BURN Manufacturing in Nairobi is Africa's largest clean cookstove manufacturer, producing over a million biomass and LPG stoves annually and distributing across 10 African countries. Each advanced biomass stove reduces household CO₂ emissions by approximately 1 tonne per year.

Clean Technology (Cleantech)

MANUFACTURING | ENERGY

Cleantech refers to innovations, products, processes, and services that use natural resources more productively while reducing environmental impacts. It encompasses renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency systems, clean transport, water purification, and waste management innovations. Under the ACGTG,

cleantech manufacturing and deployment are eligible across multiple priority sectors.

Example: BioLite, operating across East Africa, manufactures and distributes clean cooking stoves and solar home systems that convert biomass combustion into electricity, a convergence of clean cooking and clean energy technology. In South Africa, SunExchange allows ordinary Africans to buy and lease individual solar cells to businesses and schools, democratising access to cleantech investment. The Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA) represents over 20 cleantech companies deploying solar-plus-storage mini-grids across the continent.

Climate Change Mitigation ENERGY | ALL

Climate change mitigation refers to actions that reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions, slowing the rate of global warming. It is ACGTG Objective 1 and the anchor of Africa's NDC commitments under the Paris Agreement. Eligible mitigation activities include renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transport, and nature-based solutions.

Example: Nigeria's Presidential Initiative on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion programme is converting commercial vehicles from petrol and diesel to CNG, a transitional mitigation measure targeting urban transport emissions. Ethiopia has committed to a 68% reduction in emissions below business-as-usual by 2030 through its NDC, underpinned by its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, which prioritises renewable energy expansion and afforestation as the primary mitigation pillars.

Climate Finance GREEN FINANCE

Climate finance refers to financial resources, including loans, grants, equity, guarantees,

Climate-Smart Agriculture

and other instruments mobilised from public, private, and blended sources for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Africa requires an estimated USD 277 billion in annual climate finance to meet its Paris Agreement commitments but currently receives only a small fraction of this amount.

Example: The African Development Bank's Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) channel climate finance to African governments for renewable energy and adaptation projects. In 2023, Kenya issued a USD 1.5 billion sovereign green bond on the London Stock Exchange, which is Africa's largest sovereign green bond issuance at the time, directing proceeds to climate-resilient infrastructure and renewable energy under its Green Finance Taxonomy.

Climate Justice ALL SECTORS

Climate justice is the principle that climate change should be addressed in ways that are fair to all people, particularly the world's most vulnerable and least responsible for causing the crisis. It recognises that African nations, historically responsible for less than 4% of cumulative global emissions, face disproportionate climate impacts and that adaptation and loss and damage finance must flow to those most affected.

Example: At COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (2022), African nations successfully pushed for the creation of a Loss and Damage fund, a landmark climate justice achievement advocated by the African Group of Negotiators. South Africa's Climate Justice Charter movement, led by civil society coalitions, demands that energy transition plans protect workers' rights and poor communities most exposed to climate vulnerability.

Climate Resilience ALL SECTORS

Climate resilience is the ability of communities, systems, infrastructures, and economies to prepare for, absorb, adapt to, and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses, including droughts, floods, heatwaves, cyclones, and sea-level rise. Building climate resilience is the operational definition of ACGTG Objective 2 (Climate Change Adaptation).

Example: The African Risk Capacity (ARC) Agency provides parametric drought insurance to governments across 35 African countries, enabling rapid disbursement of funds when early warning systems detect drought, building fiscal climate resilience. In Rwanda, the National Resilience Strategy integrates climate-resilient water infrastructure, soil conservation, and weather-resistant building codes into national planning, making Kigali one of Africa's most resilient cities to extreme weather.

Climate-Smart Agriculture AGRICULTURE

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach to transforming agri-food systems to support food security under climate change by simultaneously increasing agricultural productivity and resilience while reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions. It is an ACGTG-eligible activity under Objectives 1 (Mitigation) and 2 (Adaptation).

Example: The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT operates climate-smart agriculture programmes across 19 African countries, training over 200,000 smallholder farmers in drought-tolerant varieties, conservation agriculture, and soil health management. In Ethiopia, the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP) has deployed conservation agriculture techniques, including terracing, check dams, and agroforestry, across millions of hectares

Conservation

of degraded highland farmland, dramatically reducing erosion and improving food security.

Climate Vulnerability HEALTH | ALL

Climate vulnerability is the degree to which people, communities, infrastructure, or natural systems are susceptible to negative impacts from climate change, determined by their exposure to climate hazards, their sensitivity to those hazards, and their adaptive capacity to respond. Under the ACGTG, climate vulnerability assessment is required for all adaptation-eligible activities.

Example: Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's most climate-vulnerable region. The ND-GAIN Country Index consistently ranks Niger, Chad, the Central African Republic, and the DRC among the world's ten most vulnerable countries. In coastal West Africa, cities like Lagos, Accra, and Dakar face compound climate vulnerability from sea-level rise, urban flooding, extreme heat, and food system stress conditions that are increasingly factored into World Bank and AfDB project appraisals.

Closed-Loop Economy WASTE | MFG.

A closed-loop economy is an economic system where resources are reused, refurbished, remanufactured, or recycled indefinitely, with no materials sent to landfill or incineration. It is the highest ambition of ACGTG Objective 4 (Circular Economy) and the conceptual opposite of the linear “take, make, dispose” model prevalent in most African economies.

Example: Safisana in Ghana operates a fully closed-loop sanitation and agriculture system: faecal sludge and organic waste are processed into biogas for cooking, organic fertiliser for farming, and animal feed for poultry, with zero waste to landfill. Mr. Green Africa in Nairobi builds a closed-loop

plastic economy, formalising waste picker supply chains into a traceable, certified recycled plastic stream sold to international manufacturers.

Cold Storage AGRICULTURE

Solar-powered cold storage refers to off-grid, walk-in cold rooms and mobile cooling units that use solar panels and batteries to refrigerate perishable produce such as fruits, vegetables, dairy and fish without relying on unreliable or unavailable grid electricity or costly diesel generators. It is one of the highest-impact productive-use applications in Africa's agriculture sector because post-harvest spoilage, not production, is often the biggest loss point in the value chain.

Example: The FAO estimates that up to 40% of food produced in Africa is lost between harvest and market, largely due to poor storage infrastructure. Solar cold-chain operators are closing this gap at scale: Nigeria's ColdHubs has installed solar-powered cold rooms across 22 states, extending shelf life from 2 days to 21 days and benefiting more than 5,250 smallholder farmers, while Kenya's SoKo Fresh has cut customer spoilage rates from up to 50% down to under 2%, helping farmers earn up to 50% more per kilogram.

Conservation FORESTS | WATER

Conservation is the protection and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems to maintain ecological functions and services for current and future generations. Under the ACGTG, conservation activities are primarily eligible under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration) and Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources).

Example: The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) operates conservation programmes

Decentralised Energy

across over 20 African countries, working with communities to protect elephant corridors, cheetah habitats, and savannah ecosystems. In Uganda, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) manages 10 national parks and 12 wildlife reserves, conserving over 7.4 million hectares of ecosystems. The Southern African Wildlife College in Hoedspruit, South Africa, trains conservation rangers, wildlife managers, and biodiversity scientists from across Africa.

Example: Sasol has piloted cradle-to-cradle chemical management in its Sasolburg operations, designing certain chemical streams for indefinite reuse in closed industrial cycles. In Ghana, Jekora Ventures' waste management operations incorporate C2C thinking by designing composting and recycling streams so that every waste type has a defined next use, whether soil amendment, construction aggregate, or recyclable feedstock.

Corporate Sustainability ALL SECTORS

Corporate sustainability means running a business in a way that creates long-term economic value while minimising negative environmental and social impacts and actively contributing to sustainable development. It encompasses environmental management, social responsibility, ethical governance (ESG), and alignment with national and international sustainability frameworks, including the ACGTG.

Example: Safaricom in Kenya publishes an annual Sustainability Report aligned to GRI Standards, tracking its progress on renewable energy, digital inclusion, and supply chain responsibility. Ecobank Transnational, operating across 35 African countries, has a sustainability framework that commits it to green lending, gender equity in finance, and alignment with the ACGTG for classifying green assets in its loan book.

Cradle to Cradle (C2C) WASTE | MFG.

Cradle to Cradle (C2C) is a product design philosophy inspired by natural systems, where materials are designed from the outset to be either safely returned to biological cycles (as compostable nutrients) or to remain indefinitely in technical cycles (as recyclable materials), creating zero waste. It is the conceptual apex of ACGTG Objective 4 (Circular Economy).



Decarbonisation ALL SECTORS

Decarbonisation is the process of reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in an economy, sector, or organisation, ultimately reaching net-zero emissions. Under the ACGTG's three-tier system, Tier 3 activities in transition sectors must demonstrate credible decarbonisation pathways with verified milestones to qualify for green classification.

Example: South Africa's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP), the most ambitious national decarbonisation programme in Africa, commits USD 98 billion over five years to transition the country's electricity sector away from coal, retraining workers in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape through skills development programmes linked to new renewable energy projects.

Decentralised Energy ENERGY

Decentralised energy refers to small-scale electricity generation sources that generate power close to where it is consumed, rather than transmitting power from large centralised plants

Digital Carbon Footprint

over long distances. Examples include rooftop solar PV, community wind turbines, biogas digesters, and solar mini-grids. Decentralised energy is critical to Africa's energy access agenda and is an ACGTG Tier 1 priority under Objective 1.

Example: ZOLA Electric (formerly Off Grid Electric) has deployed decentralised solar home systems and mini-grids across Rwanda, Tanzania, and Côte d'Ivoire. PowerGen Renewable Energy operates 20+ solar mini-grids in rural Tanzania, each a localised decentralised energy system serving hundreds of households and businesses. The Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria is increasingly prioritising decentralised solar mini-grids over national grid extension for communities more than 5 km from the national grid.

Deep Retrofit BUILDINGS

A deep retrofit is a comprehensive upgrade of an existing building to dramatically improve energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and emissions performance, typically achieving 50–90% reductions in energy demand. Deep retrofits go beyond cosmetic improvements to include insulation, window replacement, HVAC upgrades, renewable energy installation, and smart energy management. It is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity for existing buildings.

Example: The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) has facilitated deep energy retrofits in public schools and hospitals through its Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management (EEDSM) programme, reducing electricity bills and emissions across hundreds of public facilities. In Kenya, the IFC's EDGE certification programme has incentivised deep retrofits of commercial buildings in Nairobi by providing fast-track certification for buildings achieving

over 40% energy and water savings versus standard construction.

Deforestation FORESTS

Deforestation is the permanent conversion of forested land to other uses such as agriculture, logging, or urban development, resulting in the loss of trees, biodiversity, carbon sinks, and ecosystem services. It is the primary driver of forest-related greenhouse gas emissions and a central risk addressed by ACGTG Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration).

Example: The DRC contains 60% of Africa's Congo Basin rainforest and faces some of the world's highest deforestation rates, driven by subsistence agriculture, charcoal production, and artisanal mining. Organisations such as CIFOR-ICRAF and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) work with the DRC government on REDD+ programmes that pay communities to conserve forests rather than clear them. In Nigeria, Ogun State's forest reserve restoration programme has declared moratoriums on timber felling in key biodiversity zones.

Digital Carbon Footprint GREEN DIGITAL

A digital carbon footprint is the greenhouse gas emissions caused by using digital technologies, including streaming services, email, data storage, social media, cloud computing, and internet browsing. The ICT sector accounts for approximately 2.4% of global emissions. Under the ACGTG, reducing digital carbon footprints is part of eligible activities under the Green Digital Economy sector.

Example: Africa's fast-growing mobile data consumption, driven by platforms like Boomplay (music streaming, Africa) and ShowMax (African video streaming), is

Disclosure

generating rapidly increasing digital carbon emissions from data centres and network infrastructure. Liquid Intelligent Technologies, operating data centres across 13 African countries, has committed to transitioning its server infrastructure to renewable energy, directly reducing the digital carbon footprint of its business clients.

Digital Sobriety GREEN DIGITAL

Digital sobriety is the practice of using digital tools more efficiently, consciously, and less wastefully to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact. It includes choosing lower-resolution video, reducing unnecessary cloud storage, using audio calls instead of video, and optimising software for energy efficiency. It is an emerging concept within ACGTG's Green Digital Economy sector.

Example: Safaricom in Kenya has adopted a digital sobriety policy for its internal operations, reducing the data-heaviness of internal video conferencing by default and optimising its network infrastructure for energy efficiency. MTN Group, operating across 19 African countries, has published a Digital Sustainability Report incorporating digital sobriety principles, targeting energy use reduction per unit of data transmitted across its networks.

Digital Sustainability GREEN DIGITAL

Digital sustainability is the design and use of digital technologies in ways that support environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals. It encompasses green data centres, energy-efficient software, digital tools for environmental monitoring, and ICT infrastructure that enables climate finance transparency. Under the ACGTG, it is a priority-eligible activity in the Green Digital Economy sector.

Example: Terrawatch, a Nairobi-based environmental technology company, uses digital platforms and satellite data to provide real-time deforestation alerts for forest managers in East Africa, supporting REDD+ monitoring and ACGTG Objective 5 compliance. In Ghana, Farmerline's Mergdata platform uses digital tools to support smallholder climate-smart agriculture, helping over 2 million farmers access weather data, market prices, and sustainable input financing through smartphones.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) HEALTH | SOCIAL

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) encompasses policies, strategies, and measures that reduce the vulnerability of communities and assets to natural disasters exacerbated by climate change. Under the ACGTG, DRR activities are eligible under Objective 2 (Climate Change Adaptation) and Objective 12 (Health and Social Infrastructure), particularly in climate-vulnerable African communities.

Example: The African Risk Capacity (ARC) group, co-established by the African Union, provides parametric climate risk insurance to 35 African governments, enabling rapid disaster response before climate shocks become humanitarian crises. In Mozambique, the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) has built 26 cyclone-resilient community shelters along the coastline following Cyclone Idai in 2019. Rwanda's Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs Secretariat integrates climate risk mapping into national land use planning to reduce disaster exposure.

Disclosure GREEN FINANCE

Disclosure, in the sustainability and green finance context, means publicly sharing

Electric Vehicle

material information about an organisation's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance, risks, and impacts. Mandatory sustainability disclosure is becoming a regulatory requirement for listed companies and financial institutions across Africa, underpinned by frameworks including the TCFD, GRI, CSRD, and the ACGTG itself.

Example: The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) requires all listed companies to produce integrated annual reports disclosing environmental and social performance against the King IV governance framework, making South Africa one of Africa's most mature sustainability disclosure regimes. In Kenya, the Capital Markets Authority has issued mandatory ESG disclosure guidelines for Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed entities, requiring annual reporting on climate-related risks aligned with the TCFD framework.

E

Ecosystem FORESTS | WATER

An ecosystem is a community of living organisms, including plants, animals, microorganisms, and fungi, interacting with each other and with their non-living physical environment as a functional system. Healthy ecosystems provide services essential for human life, including clean water, food production, climate regulation, and biodiversity. ACGTG Objective 5 directly prioritises ecosystem conservation and restoration.

Example: The Okavango Delta in Botswana is one of Africa's most extraordinary ecosystems, a unique inland river delta supporting lions, elephants, hippos, hundreds of bird species,

and millions of fish, and providing livelihoods for local communities through sustainable tourism. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is managed by the Botswana government and NGOs, including Wilderness Safaris, as an iconic African ecosystem requiring active conservation.

Ecosystem Restoration FORESTS | WATER

Ecosystem restoration means assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, returning it to a state that supports its full complement of biodiversity and ecological functions. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) places Africa at the centre of global restoration ambition, and ACGTG Objective 5 directly prioritises restoration activities for green classification.

Example: Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, set a world record in 2019 by planting 350 million trees in a single day, with a 20 billion tree planting target by 2022. Rwanda's 30% forest cover mandate has seen the country restore over 745,000 hectares of degraded hillsides, dramatically reducing soil erosion and improving water security for downstream communities.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE



Electric Vehicle (EV) TRANSPORT

An electric vehicle (EV) is a vehicle powered wholly or partially by electricity stored in batteries rather than fossil fuels, producing zero tailpipe emissions. EVs are one of the ACGTG's primary

Energy Efficiency

eligible activities under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) in the transport sector, with special provisions for electric motorcycles and three-wheelers relevant to Africa's urban mobility context.

Example: BasiGo in Kenya is deploying electric buses for Nairobi's matatu (public minibus) operators, replacing diesel vehicles on high-frequency urban routes. Roam Electric (formerly Opibus) manufactures electric motorcycles and buses in Nairobi, targeting East Africa's boda-boda (motorcycle taxi) market. In Rwanda, Volkswagen has piloted an EV fleet in Kigali, and the government offers tax exemptions on imported EVs as part of its green transport policy.

Embodied Carbon BUILDINGS | MFG.

Embodied carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions generated during the production, transport, and construction of building materials and products as opposed to operational carbon (from energy use). In Africa's rapidly urbanising cities, where hundreds of millions of new buildings are projected, managing embodied carbon in construction is critical to ACGTG Objective 1 compliance.

Example: The Green Building Council of South Africa's (GBCSA) Net Zero Carbon standard requires projects to account for both operational and embodied carbon. LafargeHolcim Bamburi Cement in Kenya has invested in alternative clinker materials to reduce the embodied carbon of its cement, which typically accounts for 7–8% of global CO₂ emissions. In Egypt, the New Administrative Capital project has incorporated embodied carbon assessments into its green building specifications for flagship government buildings.

Embodied Energy BUILDINGS | MFG.

Embodied energy is the total energy consumed through all stages of a product's life cycle, including raw material extraction, manufacturing, transport, installation, and disposal before its use phase. Reducing embodied energy is a key principle of sustainable construction and manufacturing, aligned with ACGTG Objectives 1 and 4.

Example: In South Africa, Eco Panels manufactures compressed earth blocks and stabilised rammed earth panels with significantly lower embodied energy than conventional concrete or fired brick, making them an attractive ACGTG-aligned building material. The University of Cape Town's built environment faculty has published embodied energy benchmarks for common Southern African building materials, supporting greener construction specifications by architects and developers.

Energy Efficiency BUILDINGS | MFG.

Energy efficiency means achieving the same or better output while using less energy. It is one of the fastest and most cost-effective means of reducing GHG emissions and is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Objective 1. In African cities, where buildings and industry account for a growing share of electricity demand, energy efficiency is a critical decarbonisation lever.

Example: The IFC's EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) green building programme has certified over 200 buildings in Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa, helping developers demonstrate a minimum 20% savings in energy, water, and materials. The Kenya Association of Manufacturers' Green Economy Programme has supported over 150 Kenyan factories in conducting energy audits

Financial Inclusion

and implementing efficiency measures, saving hundreds of millions of shillings in annual energy costs.

ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) GREEN FINANCE

ESG refers to the three central factors used to measure the sustainability and ethical impact of an investment or business activity. Environmental criteria assess how a company manages its ecological footprint. Social criteria assess relationships with employees, communities, and stakeholders. Governance criteria assess leadership, transparency, and accountability. ESG analysis is a core tool used by investors to align capital with ACGTG objectives.

Example: The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), Africa's largest stock exchange, requires all listed companies to report on ESG performance in their annual integrated reports. The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has launched an ESG Disclosure Guidance Manual for Kenyan listed companies, and Rwanda's Capital Markets Authority has incorporated sustainability disclosure into its listing rules.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

WASTE

Extended Producer Responsibility is a policy instrument that holds producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products, especially packaging and electronic waste. EPR schemes create financial incentives for sustainable product design and build formal infrastructure for waste collection and recycling. Under the ACGTG, EPR is an eligible policy instrument under Objective 4 (Circular Economy).

Example: South Africa's Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations (2021) established mandatory EPR schemes for the paper

and packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, and lighting industries. PETCO, South Africa's PET plastic recycling organisation, funds collection through a levy on PET resin and has achieved some of the highest plastic bottle collection rates on the continent. Ghana has a national EPR policy for e-waste under its Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act.

F

Feed-in Tariff ENERGY | GREEN FINANCE

A feed-in tariff (FIT) is a policy mechanism in which governments guarantee fixed, long-term payments to individuals or companies for renewable electricity they generate and feed into the national grid, creating a stable financial return that incentivises renewable energy investment. It is a foundational policy instrument for renewable energy sector development aligned with ACGTG Objective 1.

Example: South Africa's Small Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) framework allows commercial solar PV owners to receive payments from utilities for excess power exported to the grid (a feed-in tariff mechanism). Tanzania's Small Power Producer (SPP) regulatory framework provides guaranteed off-take agreements for mini-grid operators, functioning as a rural feed-in tariff. Uganda's Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFiT) supported the development of over 150 MW of small hydro and solar PV in its initial phase.

Financial Inclusion GREEN FINANCE | HEALTH

Financial inclusion is the process of ensuring

Forest Carbon

that individuals and businesses, especially those in low-income, rural, and marginalised communities, have access to affordable and appropriate financial services, including savings accounts, insurance, credit, and digital payments. Under the ACGTG, financial inclusion is cross-linked with Objective 6 (Just Transition and Economic Inclusion) and is a minimum social safeguard requirement.

Example: M-PESA in Kenya, launched by Safaricom in 2007, is the world's most successful mobile money platform, bringing financial inclusion to over 50 million users across Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Ghana. LAPO Microfinance Bank in Nigeria channels green microfinance loans to rural women adopting solar home systems, clean cookstoves, and sustainable agriculture practices. Branch International provides digital credit to smallholder farmers in East Africa, enabling them to invest in climate-resilient agricultural inputs.

Fisheries (Sustainable) WATER | BLUE ECO.

Sustainable fisheries management ensures that fish stocks are harvested at rates that do not exceed their natural regeneration, maintaining long-term ecological health and food security. Under the ACGTG, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are eligible activities under Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources / Blue Economy).

Example: The Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) conducts stock assessments in Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, informing Kenya's sustainable catch limits. WWF supports small-scale fishing communities in Mozambique's Quirimbas Archipelago in transitioning to sustainable fishing practices, protecting a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In Senegal, artisanal fishing cooperatives are piloting MSC-pathway fishery improvement projects to

access premium global seafood markets.

Food Security AGRICULTURE

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Climate change is the single greatest threat to food security in Africa, where over 250 million people are food insecure. ACGTG Objective 2 (Adaptation) and Objective 1 (Mitigation) both include food system sustainability as a priority.

Example: The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) projects that climate change could reduce crop yields in sub-Saharan Africa by 15–20% by 2050 without adaptation. The Southern Africa Food Lab, hosted at Stellenbosch University, facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue on food system transformation across the region. In Ethiopia, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) protects the food security of over 8 million people by linking cash transfers to natural resource rehabilitation works.

Forest Carbon / REDD+ FORESTS

REDD+ stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and includes the role of forest conservation, sustainable management, and carbon stock enhancement. It is a United Nations framework providing financial incentives for developing countries to protect forests as carbon stores, generating carbon credits for sale on international markets. It is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation).

Example: Wildlife Works Carbon has operated the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project in Kenya since 2013, protecting 500,000 acres of dry forest between Nairobi and Mombasa while

employing over 400 local residents. The Mai Ndombe REDD+ project in the DRC, one of the world's largest, is managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society and covers over 3 million hectares of Congo Basin forest, generating carbon credits purchased by international buyers.



Gender Equality ALL SECTORS

Gender equality in the sustainability context means ensuring that women, men, and gender minorities have equal opportunities, rights, and access to resources, including green jobs, green finance, and climate adaptation support. Under the ACGTG, gender equity is embedded in Minimum Social Safeguards (MSS) for all eligible activities and is a core dimension of Objective 6 (Just Transition and Economic Inclusion).

Example: The African Development Bank's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) has committed USD 3 billion to close the USD 42 billion gender financing gap for women entrepreneurs in Africa, with a focus on women-led green enterprises. In Kenya, the Women Empowerment through Green Jobs programme, supported by GIZ, targets women working in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy businesses, providing training, certification, and access to finance.

Geothermal Energy ENERGY

Geothermal energy is heat energy derived from the Earth's internal heat, extracted from hot springs, steam vents, or drilled wells, and

used to generate electricity or provide direct heat. East Africa sits on one of the world's most geothermally active regions, the East African Rift System, giving Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Djibouti extraordinary geothermal potential. It is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Objective 1.

Example: KenGen operates the largest geothermal field in Africa at Olkaria in Kenya's Rift Valley, with over 850 MW of installed geothermal capacity, providing nearly half of Kenya's electricity and making Kenya one of the world's top ten geothermal energy producers. Ethiopia's Corbetti and Tulu Moya geothermal projects, under development by Reykjavik Geothermal and Meridiam, together target 1,000 MW of clean geothermal power, sufficient to transform Ethiopia into a regional electricity exporter.

Green Bond GREEN FINANCE

A green bond is a debt instrument where the proceeds are exclusively used to finance or refinance projects with clear environmental benefits, such as renewable energy, clean water, sustainable agriculture, or green buildings. Green bonds must align with international standards and, under the ACGTG, with the taxonomy's technical screening criteria.

Example: Nigeria issued Africa's first sovereign green bond in 2017, followed by a N50 billion third sovereign green bond in 2025, funding solar energy, clean transport, and water management projects. The City of Cape Town issued South Africa's first municipal green bond in 2017, raising ZAR 1 billion for water, energy, and transport infrastructure. Egypt's Sovereign Green Bond Programme, launched in 2020, has raised over USD 2 billion for green projects across renewable energy and clean transport.

Green Finance Taxonomy

Green Building BUILDINGS

A green building is designed, constructed, and operated to minimise its environmental impact by saving energy, reducing water consumption, using sustainable materials, improving indoor air quality, and managing waste. Under the ACGTG, green building design and retrofitting are Tier 1 eligible activities under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) and Objective 2 (Climate Change Adaptation).

Example: The Menlyn Maine development in Pretoria, South Africa, claims to be Africa's first carbon-neutral urban precinct, featuring LEED- and Green Star-certified buildings with rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, and EV charging infrastructure. The Britam Tower in Nairobi, certified under the EDGE standard, achieves significant energy and water savings over conventional construction. The Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda was designed with passive cooling systems and solar panels, setting a benchmark for green public buildings in East Africa.

Green Cloud GREEN DIGITAL

Green cloud refers to the use of online data storage and services that run on energy-efficient infrastructure powered by renewable energy, reducing the carbon footprint of digital operations. As African businesses migrate to the cloud, the energy source of data centres becomes a critical sustainability factor aligned with ACGTG's Green Digital Economy sector.

Example: Liquid Intelligent Technologies operates data centres across 13 African countries and has committed to renewable energy for its cloud infrastructure. AWS (Amazon Web Services) has announced its first African data centres in South Africa and will power them with renewable energy from the country's REIPPPP programme. In Kenya, Rack Centre, one of East Africa's largest Tier 3

data centres in Lagos, is transitioning to solar-plus-storage to reduce grid dependence and carbon intensity.

Green Computing GREEN DIGITAL

Green computing is the environmentally sustainable practice of designing, manufacturing, using, and disposing of computers and IT systems in ways that reduce environmental impact, including lower energy consumption, reduced toxic materials, and responsible e-waste management. It is an eligible activity under the ACGTG's Green Digital Economy sector.

Example: MTN South Africa has achieved a 25% reduction in energy consumption per unit of data traffic through network optimisation and server virtualisation, which are core green computing practices. In Ghana, the Environmental Protection Agency's e-waste programme partners with companies like Recycle Up Ghana to collect and safely process retired IT equipment from businesses, preventing toxic materials from contaminating landfills.

Green Finance Taxonomy GREEN FINANCE

A green finance taxonomy is a classification system that defines which economic activities qualify as environmentally sustainable, providing a common language for investors, banks, regulators, and governments to identify, measure, and direct green investment. The Africa Consolidated Green Taxonomy Framework (ACGTG) is Africa's first continent-wide taxonomy, anchored on six environmental objectives, twelve priority sectors, and three eligibility tiers.

Example: South Africa's Green Finance Taxonomy (2022), Africa's first national taxonomy, classifies over 100 economic activities as green across energy, buildings, transport, water, agriculture,

Green Skills

and manufacturing sectors. Kenya's Green Finance Taxonomy (April 2025) is the first to include a mandatory compliance pathway, requiring commercial banks to report taxonomy-aligned lending within 18 months of launch. Rwanda's Green Taxonomy (April 2025) and Zambia's Green Finance Taxonomy (December 2025) followed, creating a growing continental architecture of interlocking national taxonomies.

Green Financial Instruments GREEN FINANCE

Green financial instruments are financial products, including loans, bonds, equity, insurance, guarantees, and derivatives specifically designed to finance environmentally sustainable activities. Under the ACGTG, green financial instruments are the primary mechanism for channelling capital to all twelve priority sectors. They include green bonds, green loans, sustainability-linked bonds, blended finance facilities, and carbon market instruments.

Example: The African Development Bank has mobilised over USD 25 billion in green financial instruments since 2016, including climate bonds, green loans to sovereigns, and blended finance facilities for renewable energy projects. Absa Group's Sustainable Finance practice issues green loans to South African property developers and corporate clients, with proceeds linked to ACGTG-eligible activities. FirstRand's RMB Division has developed Africa's first ACGTG-aligned green loan product for commercial real estate developers.

Green Hydrogen ENERGY

Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity through electrolysis, making it a zero-carbon fuel. It can decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors, including steel, fertilisers,

shipping, and heavy transport. Under the ACGTG, green hydrogen production is an eligible activity under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation).

Example: South Africa's national Hydrogen Society Roadmap positions the country as a potential global green hydrogen exporter, leveraging its platinum group mineral deposits (essential for electrolyzers) and increasing renewable energy capacity. Namibia's Hyphen Hydrogen Energy project targets the export of green ammonia to European markets by 2030, using wind and solar energy from the Namib Desert. The HySA (Hydrogen South Africa) consortium leads hydrogen R&D from the University of the Western Cape.

Green Information Technology (Green IT) GREEN DIGITAL

Green IT refers to environmentally responsible practices in the design, use, and disposal of information technology systems and infrastructure, including energy-efficient hardware, server virtualisation, responsible e-waste disposal, and the use of renewable energy to power IT operations. It is an eligible activity under the ACGTG Green Digital Economy sector.

Example: Dimension Data (now NTT), headquartered in South Africa and operating across Africa, has published Green IT commitments to achieve carbon neutrality across its data centre operations. Safaricom's network equipment refresh programme focuses on energy-efficient hardware that uses 30–40% less power than previous generations, reducing both energy costs and carbon emissions per unit of data transmitted across its Kenyan network.

Green Skills ALL SECTORS

Green skills are the knowledge, technical skills,

Green Software

transversal competencies, values, and attitudes that enable individuals to work and act in ways that support environmental sustainability, climate resilience, resource efficiency, biodiversity protection, and the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy. The ACQF Green and Digital Skills Analysis (2024) shows that a growing number of online job postings required green competencies.

Example: The African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) Green and Digital Skills Analysis (2024) shows that Kenya has the highest share of green skills demand among the African countries analysed, with 2.92% of online job postings requiring green competencies, compared with 1.14% in Morocco, 1.03% in Tunisia, and 1.02% in Senegal. The most frequently requested green skills include renewable energy, energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and ISO 14001 compliance, underscoring a shift among African employers toward environmentally conscious operations, even as skills supply still lags behind this emerging demand.

Green Jobs ALL SECTORS

Africa Green Jobs are defined as employment, livelihood or self-employment activity, formal or informal, that supports climate resilience, low-carbon growth, resource efficiency, ecosystem protection, circularity, and social inclusion while generating income or sustenance for Africa's youth, women, informal workers, and communities.

Example: The ILO estimates that Africa's green transition could create over 24 million new jobs by 2030 in sectors including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and waste management. In South Africa, the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) has created over 40,000 green jobs in construction and operations since 2012. The

African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) tracks the rapid growth of green employment across the continent, projecting up to 7.9 million green jobs by 2030.

Green Mobility TRANSPORT

Green mobility encompasses all forms of transportation that produce significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution than conventional fossil-fuelled vehicles, including electric vehicles, public mass transit, cycling, walking, hydrogen vehicles, and low-emission logistics. Under the ACGTG, green mobility is an eligible activity under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) in the transport sector.

Example: In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the light rail transit system (LRT), Africa's first modern LRT, carries hundreds of thousands of daily passengers on renewable hydroelectricity, replacing thousands of carbon-emitting private vehicles and tuk-tuk trips. Ride-hailing platform Bolt has introduced electric vehicle ride-hailing in Nairobi and Lagos as part of its African green mobility push. In Kigali, Volkswagen's Move electric mobility service operates a fleet of EVs as Rwanda's first sustainable urban ride-hailing service.

Green Software GREEN DIGITAL

Green software is software designed to run efficiently, consuming minimal computing resources and energy, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of digital operations. The Green Software Foundation, a non-profit industry body, has developed a Software Carbon Intensity (SCI) specification as a measurement framework directly applicable to technology companies operating across Africa.

Example: Kuda Bank, Nigeria's digital-only bank, operates on a highly optimised cloud infrastructure that processes millions of transactions with a fraction of the data

High-Performance Building

centre energy of equivalent legacy banking systems. In South Africa, Jumo World's AI-driven lending platform for financial inclusion uses algorithmically efficient credit scoring models that minimise compute intensity while extending credit access to over 18 million unbanked individuals across Africa.

Greenwashing GREEN FINANCE | ALL

Greenwashing occurs when a company or government gives a misleading impression of its environmental credentials, making its products, policies, or practices appear more sustainable than they actually are. The ACGTG's Technical Screening Criteria and verification requirements are designed to prevent greenwashing in green bond and green loan markets.

Example: The Association for Savings and Investment South Africa (ASISA) has published guidance on preventing greenwashing in ESG fund labelling. The JSE and Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) are developing South Africa's first anti-greenwashing regulations for sustainable finance products. In Nigeria, the SEC has incorporated anti-greenwashing provisions into its Sustainable Finance Roadmap, requiring third-party verification for all securities labelled as green.

and water contamination from flooding. Under the ACGTG, addressing climate-linked health impacts is the primary rationale for Objective 12 (Health and Social Infrastructure).

Example: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that climate change will increase the geographic spread of malaria vectors in East and Southern Africa, exposing an additional 150 million Africans to malaria risk by 2050. Amref Health Africa, the continent's largest health NGO, operates climate-resilient community health programmes in Kenya and Tanzania that integrate climate vulnerability mapping with preventive healthcare delivery. In South Africa, the MRC-Wits Rural Public Health cluster documents growing heat-related illness in farming communities as summer temperatures increase.

High-Performance Building BUILDINGS

A high-performance building is designed and operated to achieve superior energy, water, and indoor environmental quality outcomes compared to standard construction, typically using integrated design, efficient systems, and renewable energy. High-performance buildings often exceed minimum green building standards and represent the leading edge of ACGTG Tier 1 performance in the buildings sector.

Example: The Nedbank Campus in Sandton, Johannesburg, is recognised as one of South Africa's highest-performing green buildings, achieving a 6-Star Green Star rating from the GBCSA for its energy management, rainwater harvesting, and occupant wellness features. The Global Infrastructure Fund (GIF)-backed hospital project in Kigali, Rwanda, was designed as a high-performance health facility with photovoltaic solar, rainwater harvesting, and passive ventilation, setting a benchmark for climate-resilient health infrastructure in Africa.

H

Health Impacts of Climate Change

HEALTH | SOCIAL

Climate change poses direct and indirect threats to human health, including heat stress and heatstroke, the spread of vector-borne diseases (malaria, dengue, cholera), air quality degradation from wildfires, food insecurity,

Industrial Economy

Hybrid Vehicle TRANSPORT

A hybrid vehicle combines a conventional internal combustion engine with an electric motor and battery, improving fuel efficiency and reducing emissions compared to conventional vehicles. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) can be charged from an external power source, extending electric-only range. Hybrid vehicles are an ACGTG Tier 2 transition activity in the transport sector, recognised as a step toward full electrification.

Example: Toyota Kenya has seen significant uptake of hybrid vehicles, including the Toyota Prius, among government agencies and urban professionals seeking fuel savings amid rising petrol prices. In South Africa, the uptake of hybrid taxis and shared mobility vehicles is growing in Cape Town and Johannesburg as fleet operators calculate long-term fuel cost savings. Rwanda's Volkswagen pilot includes plug-in hybrid models alongside full EVs in its Kigali fleet.

Impact Investing GREEN FINANCE

Impact investing means deploying capital in businesses, projects, or funds with the specific intention of generating measurable positive environmental and social outcomes alongside financial returns. Under the ACGTG, impact investing is aligned with green finance instruments that target Objective 5 (Biodiversity), Objective 6 (Just Transition), and all other priority sectors requiring private capital mobilisation.

Example: Novastar Ventures, a Nairobi-based impact investor, funds African

entrepreneurs building solutions in off-grid energy, sustainable agriculture, health, and education. The Moringa Fund co-invests in agroforestry enterprises across Africa and Latin America, targeting both carbon sequestration and smallholder farmer income. CDC Group (now British International Investment) has committed over USD 1 billion in impact investment across Sub-Saharan Africa, targeting renewable energy, financial services, and agribusiness.

Indigenous Rights ALL SECTORS

Indigenous rights are the collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral lands, resources, cultural heritage, and self-determination. Under the ACGTG Minimum Social Safeguards (MSS), all eligible activities must obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from affected indigenous and local communities and must not displace traditional land use rights.

Example: In Kenya, the Ogiek Peoples' Development Programme successfully challenged eviction from the Mau Forest Complex before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in a landmark 2017 ruling affirming that forest-dependent indigenous communities have land rights that must be respected in any conservation or development scheme. REDD+ projects across Africa, including in Cameroon, DRC, and Tanzania, are increasingly required to demonstrate compliance with FPIC standards as a condition of carbon credit verification under Verra and Gold Standard frameworks.

Industrial Ecology MANUFACTURING

Industrial ecology is the study and practice of designing industrial systems to function like natural ecosystems, where the waste of one process becomes the raw material of another, minimising resource extraction, waste

Land Degradation

generation, and environmental harm. It is the conceptual foundation of industrial symbiosis programmes eligible under ACGTG Objective 4 (Circular Economy).

Example: The National Cleaner Production Centre South Africa (NCPC-SA) has facilitated industrial symbiosis networks in the Coega Development Zone (Eastern Cape) and other industrial parks, where manufacturers exchange waste streams, including fly ash, slag, and chemical by-products as production inputs, saving millions of rands in disposal and raw material costs annually. The Tema Industrial Symbiosis Project in Ghana connects manufacturers in the Tema industrial zone to exchange steam, cooling water, and chemical by-products, demonstrating circular industrial ecology in West Africa.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) WATER

IWRM is a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. It is the primary management framework for ACGTG Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources / Blue Economy).

Example: The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), bringing together ten riparian countries from Uganda to Egypt, applies IWRM principles to manage shared Nile River water resources, balancing competing national development needs with ecosystem integrity. The Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) applies IWRM across South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, and Botswana, coordinating releases from Lesotho's Katse Dam for downstream water security.

J

Just Transition ALL SECTORS

A just transition is a process of transforming economies and workplaces in ways that are as fair and inclusive as possible for workers and communities affected by the shift away from carbon-intensive industries. Under the ACGTG, Just Transition and Economic Inclusion is Objective 6, the most distinctive of its six objectives, going beyond all comparable global taxonomy frameworks in treating social equity as a core green eligibility criterion.

Example: South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission coordinates the country's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP), targeting USD 98 billion to support coal mining communities in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape through worker retraining, community economic development, and investment in renewable energy as a replacement industry. In Zambia, the transition away from copper-dependent economic structures involves skills re-orientation programmes linking mining communities to solar panel manufacturing and critical mineral processing.

L

Land Degradation AGRICULTURE | FOREST

Land degradation is the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity of land due to human activities such as overgrazing, unsustainable agriculture, deforestation, or poor irrigation. It threatens food security, water

Linear Economy

availability, and biodiversity. An estimated 65% of Africa's arable land is already degraded.

Example: The African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land across the Sahel by 2030, addressing desertification driven by decades of overgrazing and deforestation. In Ethiopia, the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP) has implemented terracing, check dams, and reforestation on over 1 million hectares of degraded highlands, dramatically reducing soil erosion.

LEED Certification BUILDINGS

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a globally recognised green building certification system that rates buildings on energy efficiency, water conservation, sustainable materials, indoor environmental quality, and location. LEED-certified buildings align with ACGTG Tier 1 eligibility criteria for the Buildings & Urban Infrastructure sector.

Example: The PwC Tower in Cape Town achieved LEED Platinum certification, the highest LEED level, becoming one of South Africa's most energy-efficient commercial buildings. In Ghana, the Accra-based Total Oil headquarters achieved LEED Gold certification, incorporating rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, and advanced energy management systems aligned with ACGTG Buildings sector criteria. East Africa's first LEED Platinum building, the IFC Nairobi office, showcases regional leadership in green building.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

MANUFACTURING | WASTE

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a scientific method for evaluating the environmental impacts of a product, process, or service across its entire life cycle from raw material

extraction and manufacturing through use and end-of-life disposal. It is a core analytical tool for demonstrating ACGTG compliance under Objectives 1 and 4, particularly in manufacturing and construction.

Example: Illovo Sugar Africa, the continent's largest sugar producer, has conducted LCAs on its sugarcane-to-sugar production systems across Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, and Mozambique to identify hotspots for carbon and water reduction. In South Africa, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) requires LCA-based environmental assessments for green loan applications in manufacturing, ensuring that funded projects deliver verifiable lifecycle emission reductions.

Linear Economy WASTE | MFG.

A linear economy is the prevailing economic model of take, make, and dispose, where raw materials are extracted, processed into products, used, and then discarded as waste. The linear economy generates vast amounts of pollution and resource depletion and is the primary system that ACGTG's Objective 4 (Circular Economy) aims to transform across African economic sectors.

Example: Most African cities still operate predominantly linear economies for waste: municipal solid waste is collected, transported to open dumpsites, and burned, releasing greenhouse gases and toxic pollutants. Accra and Lagos together send over 10 million tonnes of mixed waste to uncontrolled dumpsites each year. Companies like Cova Advisory are helping African businesses map their linear economy exposure as a first step to developing circular economy transition strategies.

Material Circularity Indicator

Loss and Damage ALL SECTORS

Loss and damage refer to the negative impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided through mitigation or adaptation, including permanent losses of land, ecosystems, cultural heritage, and livelihoods, as well as economic damage from extreme weather events. At COP27 in Egypt (2022), the international community agreed to establish a dedicated Loss and Damage fund, largely driven by African and small island state advocacy.

Example: Mozambique's coastal communities have experienced irreversible land loss from Cyclone Idai (2019) and subsequent storms, with over 600 km² of productive farmland and hundreds of villages permanently destroyed. The V20 Group (Vulnerable Twenty), including African nations like Ghana and Ethiopia, advocates for expanded international loss and damage finance. At COP28 in Dubai (2023), the Loss and Damage Fund was formally launched with initial pledges, with AfDB appointed as one of the first accreditation bodies.

Low-Carbon Economy ALL SECTORS

A low-carbon economy is one that has significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from energy, transport, buildings, and industry, through the adoption of clean technologies, improved efficiency, and nature-based solutions. Africa's green economic transition, as defined by the ACGTG, is fundamentally a pathway toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

Example: Rwanda is widely regarded as Sub-Saharan Africa's most advanced low-carbon economy transition, with over 90% of electricity from hydropower, national plastic bag bans, comprehensive tree planting, and a green transport policy. Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE)

strategy targets a low-carbon development pathway that decouples GDP growth from emissions growth through renewable energy, sustainable land management, and clean transport.



Marine Conservation WATER | BLUE ECO.

Marine conservation is the protection and management of ocean ecosystems, coastal habitats, and marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and open ocean biodiversity. Under the ACGTG, marine conservation activities are eligible under Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources / Blue Economy) and Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation).

Example: The Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's largest coral atolls, is managed by the Seychelles Islands Foundation as a marine conservation area. Mozambique's Bazaruto Archipelago National Park protects one of the last viable dugong populations in Africa and critical coral reef habitats, with support from African Safari Conservation (ASC) and WWF. Kenya established 10% marine-protected area coverage of its EEZ under the Kunming-Montreal 30x30 commitment.

Material Circularity Indicator (MCI)

WASTE | MFG.

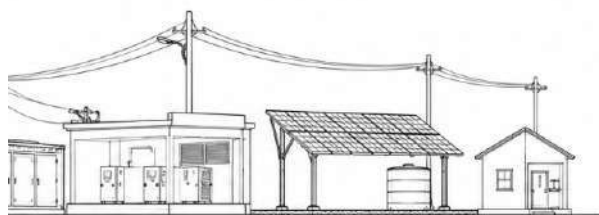
The Material Circularity Indicator (MCI) is a metric developed by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to measure how circular a product or company is, quantifying the degree to which materials flow in closed loops rather than being lost to waste or

Modern Energy Minimum

virgin resource extraction. It is a key performance indicator for ACGTG Objective 4 (Circular Economy) compliance in manufacturing sectors.

Example: The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has partnered with the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) to pilot MCI measurement in South African and Ghanaian manufacturing companies, providing a standardised baseline for circular economy performance. Unilever's South African operations have incorporated MCI tracking into their sustainability reporting, measuring packaging circularity across their portfolio of consumer goods brands sold across Sub-Saharan Africa.

MINI-GRID



Mini-Grid ENERGY

A mini-grid is a small-scale electricity generation and distribution system that serves a community or cluster of buildings, typically combining solar PV with battery storage. Mini-grids are ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activities and are central to Africa's energy access agenda, serving communities too remote or dispersed for national grid connection.

Example: Greenlight Planet, PowerGen Renewable Energy, and SteamaCo operate mini-grids across Tanzania, Kenya, and Nigeria, respectively, collectively powering hundreds of thousands of rural households and productive enterprises. Ghana's National Electrification Scheme uses mini-grids to extend electricity access to off-grid communities in the Northern and Volta Regions. ZOLA Electric has scaled solar mini-

grids across Rwanda, Tanzania, and Côte d'Ivoire, reaching communities that would not see national grid extension for decades.

Mobility Management TRANSPORT

Mobility management encompasses strategies and services that reduce private car use and promote sustainable transport alternatives, including public transit, cycling, walking, car-sharing, and telecommuting. It is an ACGTG eligible activity under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) in the transport sector, particularly relevant to Africa's rapidly growing, congested cities.

Example: Kigali's integrated urban mobility plan combines bus rapid transit (BRT), motorcycle taxi regulation, and non-motorised transport infrastructure to manage urban mobility sustainably. Johannesburg's Rea Vaya BRT system, one of Africa's largest, provides clean, efficient, affordable mobility across the city. The Cape Town-based Aerobotics company uses AI and satellite data for precision agriculture, while similar precision logistics platforms are emerging to optimise last-mile delivery and reduce unnecessary vehicle kilometres in African cities.

Modern Energy Minimum ENERGY

The Modern Energy Minimum is a threshold developed by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Energy for Growth Hub, defined as an average annual per-capita electricity consumption of 1,000 kWh, split between roughly 250 kWh used at home and 750 kWh used in the broader economy. This is the level of energy access needed to meaningfully participate in the modern economy, rather than merely to light a room or charge a phone. It deliberately sets a higher bar than the traditional SDG7 access threshold, which requires as little as 50–100 kWh per person annually.

Nature-Based Solutions

Example: The Rockefeller Foundation's Green Power Gap report found that 68 countries fall below the Modern Energy Minimum, 44 of them in Africa, and calculated an 8,700 terawatt-hour "Green Power Gap" that must be closed with clean power to bring 3.8 billion people up to this standard. Sub-Saharan Africa's share of the global shortfall is particularly acute: the region now accounts for nearly 75% of the world's Modern Energy Minimum gap, having risen from about half as India's electrification has accelerated.



Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ALL SECTORS

A Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is a country's national climate action plan submitted to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement, outlining commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. NDCs are the primary policy instrument connecting the ACGTG's sectoral criteria to national government obligations across Africa.

Example: Kenya's NDC commits to a 32% reduction in GHG emissions below business-as-usual by 2030, prioritising renewable energy, sustainable transport, reforestation, and climate-smart agriculture. Nigeria's NDC targets an unconditional 20% and conditional 47% reduction in emissions by 2030. South Africa's 2025 Updated NDC commits to emissions between 350–420 MtCO₂e by 2030, underpinned by its JET-IP coal transition programme.

Natural Capital FORESTS | WATER

Natural capital is the world's stock of natural assets, including soils, air, water, biodiversity,

minerals, and ecosystems, that provide essential services for human well-being and economic activity, including clean water, carbon storage, pollination, flood protection, and climate regulation. Valuing natural capital is the conceptual foundation of ACGTG Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation).

Example: The Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) programme, supported by the World Bank, has developed natural capital accounts for Botswana (water, minerals, and land), Rwanda (forests and land), and Uganda (wetlands and fisheries). Nedbank in South Africa has incorporated natural capital risk into its credit policies, assessing biodiversity-related financial risks across its corporate lending portfolio.

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) FORESTS | WATER | AGRICULTURE

Nature-Based Solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges, including climate change, food security, water security, and biodiversity loss, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. Under the ACGTG, NbS are eligible across Objectives 2, 3, and 5.

Example: The city of Durban in South Africa pioneered urban NbS through its Integrated Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (IMOS), protecting coastal mangroves, wetlands, and green corridors to provide flood protection, water purification, and cooling services. In Ethiopia, the Bale Mountains Eco-Region programme protects peatland forest ecosystems as an NbS for watershed provision and carbon sequestration, funded through carbon credits purchased by international buyers.

Ocean Acidification

Nature Positive BIODIVERSITY

Nature Positive is a global goal to halt and reverse the loss of nature by 2030, ensuring that biodiversity is not just protected but actively restored so that more nature exists by the end of the decade than at its beginning. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 target (protecting 30% of land and oceans by 2030) is the primary expression of nature-positive ambition, directly referenced in ACGTG Objective 5.

Example: South Africa is one of 17 megadiverse countries globally and has committed to expanding its protected area network as part of its nature-positive strategy. The African Wildlife Foundation's Heartland Conservation approach manages nature-positive landscape corridors across 50 million acres in ten African countries. Unilever South Africa's Sustainable Living Plan commits to nature-positive sourcing for all agricultural raw materials by 2030, including sugarcane, tea, palm oil, and tomatoes.

Net Zero ALL SECTORS

Net zero means achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the amount removed, such that the net contribution to atmospheric GHG concentrations is zero. It is the ultimate destination of all ACGTG-aligned activities and the stated long-term target of the Paris Agreement.

Example: Rwanda has committed to net-zero emissions by 2050, supported by its Green Growth and Climate Resilience National Strategy. South Africa's Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) targets net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Sasol, South Africa's largest corporate GHG emitter, has committed to a 30% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions by

2030 and net zero by 2050, one of Africa's most significant corporate decarbonisation commitments in the industrial sector.

Net Zero Energy Building BUILDINGS

A Net Zero Energy Building (NZEB) is a structure that produces as much renewable energy on-site (usually through solar PV) as it consumes over the course of a year, achieving a net-zero energy balance. NZEBs represent the frontier of ACGTG Tier 1 performance in the buildings sector and are increasingly viable across Africa given the continent's high solar irradiance.

Example: The Net Zero Energy Building prototype developed by the CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) in Pretoria demonstrates how African climate conditions, high solar irradiance, and moderate temperatures enable zero-carbon building design at commercially viable costs. Growthpoint Properties, South Africa's largest listed REIT, is pursuing a portfolio-wide net-zero carbon target, retrofitting existing buildings with solar PV, LED lighting, and smart energy management across its South African, Kenyan, and Ghanaian portfolios.



Ocean Acidification WATER | BLUE ECO.

Ocean acidification is the decrease in the pH of Earth's oceans caused by the absorption of excess atmospheric CO₂, forming carbonic acid. This harms marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, shellfish, and shell-forming organisms, and threatens coastal fisheries that millions of Africans depend on for food and livelihoods. It is a key DNSH criterion under ACGTG Objective 3.

Payment for Ecosystem Services

Example: The Western Indian Ocean is experiencing measurable acidification, threatening Kenya's and Tanzania's coral reef ecosystems and the artisanal fishing communities that depend on them. The Indian Ocean Commission's Regional Coral Reef Programme monitors ocean acidification impacts across Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, and Seychelles, providing early warning data for marine conservation managers. WIOMSA (the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) publishes annual ocean health reports tracking acidification trends across East African coastal waters.

Off-Grid Energy ENERGY

Off-grid energy systems are electricity generation solutions that operate independently from national or regional electricity grids, including solar home systems, mini-grids, and standalone generators. Off-grid energy is a critical ACGTG Tier 1 priority, addressing the energy access gap for the estimated 600 million Africans without reliable grid electricity, which is the largest energy access challenge in the world.

Example: d.light has sold over 25 million solar products across Africa, including solar lanterns, solar home systems, and solar water pumps, in over 40 countries. Fenix International (now part of ENGIE) pioneered pay-as-you-go solar home systems in Uganda and Zambia, enabling low-income rural households to access solar lighting and phone charging through mobile money payments with no upfront cost.

P

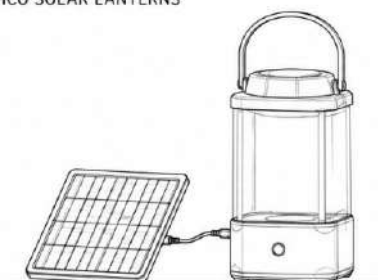
Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

FORESTS | WATER

Payment for Ecosystem Services is a mechanism that provides direct financial incentives to landowners, communities, or governments to conserve or sustainably manage natural ecosystems that generate ecological services such as watershed protection, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation. PES is an ACGTG eligible activity under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation).

Example: Kenya's Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund, managed by The Nature Conservancy, pays upstream smallholder farmers in the Tana watershed to implement soil conservation and sustainable farming practices, benefiting Nairobi's 4 million residents who depend on the Tana River for drinking water. Rwanda's PES programme compensates communities adjacent to Nyungwe and Volcanoes National Parks for protecting forest watersheds through which the country generates over 90% of its freshwater.

PICO SOLAR LANTERNS



Rainwater Harvesting

Pico Solar Lanterns / Lights ENERGY

Pico solar lanterns or lights are small, portable solar-powered lighting devices that typically include a photovoltaic panel, rechargeable battery, LED lighting, and, in some models, mobile phone charging capability. They provide an affordable entry-level source of modern electricity for households without grid access, replacing kerosene lamps and disposable batteries.

Example: GOGLA's 2025 Global Off-Grid Solar Market Report shows that pico lanterns remain the single largest product category by volume globally, while there is widespread adoption of quality-certified pico solar products across Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in rural communities where they provide clean, affordable lighting for households, schools, and small businesses while reducing household energy costs and indoor air pollution.

Pollution Prevention WASTE | MFG. | WATER

Pollution prevention means designing processes, products, and systems to prevent the generation of pollutants at source rather than managing pollution after it has been created. Under the ACGTG, pollution prevention is embedded in Objective 4 (Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency, and Pollution Prevention) and is a crosscutting "Do No Significant Harm" criterion across all twelve ACGTG priority sectors.

Example: Lake Victoria, shared by Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, faces severe water pollution from agricultural run-off, industrial effluent, and municipal wastewater. The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme (LVEMP), supported by the World Bank and GEF, funds pollution prevention measures, including wetland restoration, industrial effluent treatment plants,

and improved sanitation infrastructure. ArcelorMittal's Newcastle Steel Works has invested in fume capture and treatment systems to comply with South Africa's National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act.

Productive Use of Energy (PUE) ALL SECTORS

Productive Use of Energy (PUE) refers to the utilisation of electricity or other modern energy sources to power income-generating activities, improve productivity, create employment, and increase economic value across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, trade, and services rather than energy used only for household lighting, phone charging, or entertainment.

Example: The Africa Minigrids Program (AMP) has promoted productive use of energy across several African countries by supporting the adoption of, for example, electric irrigation pumps, agro-processing equipment and other productive appliances connected to renewable energy mini-grids. According to the ILO employment impact assessments of Kenya's Green Mini-Grid Facility found that among small businesses using electricity productively, 69% of owners who were previously unemployed now considered themselves employed, and 84% reported that revenue from their PUE business had increased.

R

Rainwater Harvesting WATER | BUILDINGS

Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rainfall for on-site reuse, reducing dependence on potable water supplies and

Regenerative Agriculture

municipal infrastructure. It is an ACGTG eligible activity under Objective 3 (Water and Marine Resources) and is increasingly specified in green building standards as a water efficiency measure across Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa.

Example: In Nairobi, the Britam Tower collects rainwater from its roof to supplement grey water needs, reducing municipal water demand by 30%. Rainwater harvesting is a central strategy in Rwanda's climate-resilient rural water programme, with over 200,000 households using rainwater tanks as part of the Ministry of Infrastructure's water access programme. In Morocco, the Office National de l'Eau et de l'Electricité (ONEE) promotes rooftop rainwater harvesting in rural communities in the Atlas Mountain region to supplement groundwater supplies affected by snowpack decline.

REDD+ / Forest Carbon FORESTS

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is a United Nations framework that provides financial incentives for developing countries to protect forests as carbon stores. It includes forest conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. It is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation), and Africa hosts some of the world's most significant REDD+ projects.

Example: Wildlife Works Carbon has operated the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project in Kenya since 2013, protecting 500,000 acres of dry forest while employing over 400 local community members. The Mai Ndombe REDD+ project in the DRC, one of the world's largest, covers over 3 million hectares of Congo Basin forest managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Reforestation FORESTS

Reforestation is the replanting of trees on land that was previously forested but has been cleared or degraded. It is an ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration), generating carbon sequestration, biodiversity, watershed, and livelihoods co-benefits across Africa's most threatened forest landscapes.

Example: The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) brings together 34 African countries committed to restoring 128 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030. Ethiopia's 20 billion tree planting campaign, part of the Green Legacy Initiative, has been verified by satellite data as significantly increasing forest cover in targeted highlands. In Ghana, the Ghana Reforestation Programme, jointly run by the Forestry Commission and private sector partners, aims to restore 2 million hectares of degraded forest reserves, creating thousands of green jobs.

Regenerative Agriculture AGRICULTURE

Regenerative agriculture is a holistic, ecosystem-centred farming approach that focuses on rebuilding soil organic matter, improving the water cycle, enhancing biodiversity, and sequestering carbon, going beyond sustainability to actively restore natural systems. It aligns with ACGTG Objectives 1 (Mitigation), 2 (Adaptation), and 5 (Biodiversity Conservation) and is increasingly adopted by African smallholder and commercial farmers.

Example: Fairtrade Africa and the Rainforest Alliance are promoting regenerative agriculture practices, including cover cropping, composting, integrated pest management, and agroforestry across cocoa farms in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, improving soil carbon and reducing chemical inputs.

Rewilding

Nature's Source in South Africa supports commercial farmers in the Western Cape and Limpopo provinces in transitioning from conventional tillage to no-till regenerative systems, demonstrating measurable improvements in soil organic carbon over three-year periods.

Renewable Energy ENERGY

Renewable energy is energy generated from naturally replenished sources such as solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, wave, and sustainable biomass that do not deplete finite resources or generate significant greenhouse gas emissions during generation. It is the flagship ACGTG Tier 1 eligible activity under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) and the foundation of Africa's green energy transition.

Example: Morocco's Noor Ouarzazate Solar Complex is one of the world's largest concentrated solar power (CSP) plants, at 580 MW, providing electricity to over 1 million Moroccan households. Ethiopia's Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) adds 6,450 MW of hydropower capacity, making Ethiopia Sub-Saharan Africa's potential largest power exporter. South Africa's REIPPPP has procured over 12,000 MW of wind, solar, and other renewable energy since 2012.

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) ENERGY | GREEN FINANCE

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) are tradable certificates, each representing one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity generated from a renewable energy source. They allow organisations to claim renewable electricity use even when they are not directly connected to a renewable energy generator and are used by businesses across Africa to meet renewable energy targets and ESG commitments.

Example: The Nairobi Securities Exchange

(NSE) has worked with the Kenya Power Lighting Company to develop a REC framework that allows Kenyan businesses to purchase certified renewable electricity certificates from geothermal and solar sources. South Africa's National Energy Regulator (NERSA) is developing a national REC registry to support the country's growing renewable energy market. In Morocco, international companies operating in the Casablanca industrial zones are purchasing RECs from the Noor solar complex to meet their global renewable energy procurement targets.

Resource Efficiency MANUFACTURING | WASTE

Resource efficiency means using Earth's natural resources, such as materials, water, and energy, in a sustainable way: extracting less, wasting less, and generating more value from each unit consumed. It is a core ACGTG principle and a primary goal of Objective 4 (Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency, and Pollution Prevention).

Example: The UNIDO Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) programme, operating in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Ethiopia, has assisted over 500 African SMEs and large enterprises in implementing resource efficiency improvements, collectively saving millions of dollars in material and energy costs while reducing industrial emissions and waste.

Rewilding FORESTS | BIODIVERSITY

Rewilding is a large-scale conservation approach that aims to restore ecosystems to their natural, self-sustaining state by reintroducing keystone species, removing invasive species, and allowing natural processes to resume. It goes beyond passive conservation to actively restore ecological function and is eligible under ACGTG Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration).

Social Bonds

Example: In South Africa, the African Lion & Environmental Research Trust (ALERT) has reintroduced lion populations to reserves in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Mozambique, where they had been locally extinct. African Parks Network has rewilded 22 national parks across 12 African countries, reintroducing hundreds of elephants, rhinos, lions, and other megafauna to restore ecological balance. In Rwanda, the mountain gorilla population has increased from under 400 to over 1,000 individuals through targeted rewilding and anti-poaching measures in the Virunga Massif.

S

Sanitation HEALTH | WATER

Sanitation encompasses access to and use of facilities and services for safe disposal of human waste, wastewater management, and hygiene promotion to protect health and the environment. In Africa, over 700 million people lack access to safely managed sanitation, one of the continent's most acute public health and climate adaptation challenges. ACGTG Objective 12 (Health and Social Infrastructure) and Objective 3 (Water) both include sanitation interventions as eligible activities.

Example: Sanergy in Nairobi builds and franchises community-based "Fresh Life" toilets in informal settlements, collecting and converting waste into organic fertiliser and animal feed sold to smallholder farmers, which is a circular sanitation model. Clean Team Ghana provides portable sanitation services to urban households in Kumasi without access to sewer systems, using a subscription container-based sanitation

model. WSUP (Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor) has provided improved sanitation to over 11 million people across eight African countries.

Smart Grid ENERGY | GREEN DIGITAL

A smart grid is an electricity network that uses digital technology, sensors, and communication systems to monitor, manage, and optimise the generation, transmission, distribution, and consumption of electricity in real time. Smart grids are essential for integrating variable renewable energy sources (solar and wind) and are an ACGTG-eligible activity under both the Energy and Green Digital Economy sectors.

Example: Eskom has piloted smart metering and demand response systems in several South African municipalities as part of its smart grid modernisation roadmap. In Kenya, Kenya Power has deployed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) smart meters to reduce electricity theft and enable real-time energy management for commercial customers. Ethiopia's Electric Utility is incorporating smart grid principles into its Integrated National Energy Master Plan to manage the balancing challenges of its expanding renewable energy portfolio.

Social Bonds GREEN FINANCE | HEALTH

Social bonds are debt instruments issued to finance projects with specific positive social outcomes, such as affordable housing, healthcare, education, clean water access, food security, or employment programmes for disadvantaged groups. Under the ACGTG, social bonds are eligible financial instruments aligned with Objective 6 (Just Transition and Economic Inclusion) and Objective 12 (Health and Social Infrastructure).

Example: The African Development Bank issues Social Bonds to fund healthcare, food security,

Sustainable Finance

and social protection programmes across Africa, including its COVID-19 Crisis Response Social Bond, the world's largest social bond at the time (USD 3 billion) raised in March 2020. The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has issued social bonds to fund water access, education infrastructure, and healthcare facility construction across Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states.

Solar Energy ENERGY

Solar energy is electricity or heat generated by capturing energy from the sun, primarily through photovoltaic (PV) panels or concentrated solar power (CSP) systems. Africa has the world's highest solar irradiance levels, making solar energy the single greatest renewable energy opportunity on the continent and the dominant ACGTG Tier 1 green investment across all twelve priority sectors.

Example: CrossBoundary Energy Access finances, builds, and operates commercial and industrial (C&I) solar systems across Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Mali, providing renewable energy to health clinics, schools, factories, and businesses. Daystar Power (acquired by TotalEnergies in 2022) operates solar hybrid systems for commercial and industrial clients across Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. In South Africa, distributed rooftop solar additions surged past 5,000 MW in 2024, driven by widespread load-shedding and falling panel prices.

Solar Home Systems (SHS) ENERGY

Solar Home Systems (SHS) are stand-alone photovoltaic systems designed to provide electricity to individual households or small businesses that are not connected to the national electricity grid. A typical SHS consists of solar panels, a battery, a charge controller, and electrical loads such as LED lights, phone

charging points, televisions, radios, or small productive appliances. Some are sold on cash or pay-as-you-go (PAYGo) terms.

Example: According to GOGLA's 2025 Global Off-Grid Solar Market Report, more than 30 million off-grid solar products have been sold across Africa, with countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda leading adoption. PAYGo-enabled solar home systems have expanded access to electricity for millions of households while supporting small businesses through lighting, communications, and small productive applications.

Sustainable Agriculture AGRICULTURE

Sustainable agriculture is farming that produces sufficient food while protecting and improving natural resources such as soil health, water quality, biodiversity, and climate stability for the long term. Under the ACGTG, sustainable agriculture is a priority eligible activity under Objectives 1, 2, and 5, and represents the primary entry point for smallholder participation in Africa's green economy.

Example: Balmed Farms in Ghana and the Songhai Centre in Benin represent African models of integrated sustainable agriculture combining crop production, aquaculture, livestock, and biogas in closed-loop systems. AGRA works with smallholder farmers across 11 African countries to adopt sustainable soil management, drought-tolerant seed varieties, and conservation agriculture practices.

Sustainable Finance GREEN FINANCE

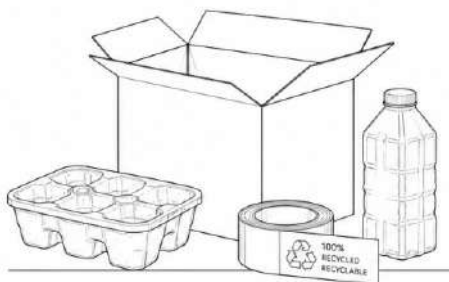
Sustainable finance is the practice of integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into financial decision-making, ensuring that capital allocation supports sustainable development, climate goals, and social equity.

Sustainable Tourism

Green finance taxonomies, including the ACGTG, are the primary institutional tools for operationalising sustainable finance at the national and continental scale in Africa.

Example: The Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC) is positioning Kenya as East Africa's sustainable finance hub, hosting green bond listings, ESG-focused investment funds, and carbon market platforms. Absa Group's Sustainability Finance practice advises African corporates and sovereigns on green bond structuring, ESG-linked loans, and sustainability-linked derivatives. LAPO Microfinance Bank channels green microfinance to rural women entrepreneurs adopting solar energy, clean cookstoves, and sustainable agriculture.

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING



Sustainable Packaging WASTE | MFG.

Sustainable packaging refers to packaging designed to reduce environmental impact through the use of recyclable, biodegradable, reusable, or renewable materials while minimising material quantity and energy use in production. Under the ACGTG, sustainable packaging is an eligible activity under Objective 4 (Circular Economy and Pollution Prevention), particularly relevant to Africa's consumer goods sector.

Example: Unilever South Africa has committed to making all its packaging recyclable, reusable, or compostable by 2025, replacing

virgin plastic with recycled content across brands, including Omo, Dove, and Knorrox. In Kenya, Eco-Post manufactures fence posts from plastic waste collected from Nairobi's informal settlements, an innovative solution that converts unsustainable linear plastic packaging into durable construction materials. Ghana's Ministry of Environment has implemented the Plastic Packaging Levy to incentivise sustainable packaging across the fast-moving consumer goods industry.

Sustainable Supply Chain MANUFACTURING | AGRICULTURE

A sustainable supply chain manages environmental, social, and governance risks and opportunities across all stages of production and distribution from raw material sourcing through manufacturing, transport, and delivery, minimising ecological harm, respecting workers' rights, and promoting circular resource flows. Under the ACGTG, sustainable supply chains are a Minimum Social Safeguard requirement for manufacturing and agriculture activities.

Example: Olam International, operating across 60 countries, including 15 in Africa, has published a Responsible Sourcing Code requiring sustainable supply chain practices for cocoa, coffee, cashews, and other commodities sourced from smallholder farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. Barry Callebaut's "Forever Chocolate" programme requires all cocoa sourced from West Africa to be free from child labour and deforestation by 2025, with farmer income above the living income reference price.

Sustainable Tourism TOURISM

Sustainable tourism is tourism that minimises environmental impact, protects biodiversity and cultural heritage, and maximises economic benefits for local communities. Under the

Technical Screening Criteria

ACGTG, sustainable tourism is an eligible activity under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation) and Objective 6 (Just Transition and Economic Inclusion), particularly community-based ecotourism models.

Example: The Maasai Mara Conservancies in Kenya, including Ol Pejeta, Lewa, and Mara North, represent Africa's most successful community conservation-tourism model, where tourism revenues fund wildlife protection and community development across hundreds of thousands of acres of private conservancy land, employing thousands of local Maasai as rangers, guides, and hospitality staff. Botswana's high-value, low-volume tourism policy generates maximum revenue with minimum ecological impact, providing a globally recognised sustainable tourism model.

Sustainable Transport TRANSPORT

Sustainable transport refers to transportation systems that significantly reduce GHG emissions, improve energy efficiency, and promote social accessibility compared to conventional fossil-fuelled mobility, including public mass transit, non-motorised transport, electric vehicles, rail, and low-emission logistics. Under the ACGTG, sustainable transport is a priority eligible activity under Objective 1 (Climate Change Mitigation) in the transport sector.

Example: Rea Vaya in Johannesburg and MyCiTi in Cape Town are two of Africa's most advanced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, carrying hundreds of thousands of daily commuters at significantly lower emissions per passenger than private cars. Ethiopia's Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit (LRT), Africa's first modern light rail, is powered by hydroelectricity and replaces thousands of fossil-fuelled commuter trips daily. In Rwanda, the Kigali-based Ampersand has converted over 500 motorcycle taxis (moto-

taxis) to electric power.

Sustainable Water Management WATER

Sustainable water management is the responsible use, conservation, treatment, and governance of freshwater and marine resources to ensure equitable access, ecosystem health, and long-term availability for all users and ecosystems. Under the ACGTG, it is the primary focus of Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources) and is a cross-cutting climate adaptation priority given Africa's acute water stress.

Example: Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC) has invested in non-revenue water reduction programmes, cutting water losses from 45% to below 35% through infrastructure rehabilitation and smart metering demonstrating sustainable urban water management at scale. In Egypt, the Irrigation Improvement Project has introduced drip irrigation across thousands of hectares in the Nile Delta, reducing agricultural water consumption by up to 50% and protecting the Delta from salinisation driven by rising sea levels.

T

Technical Screening Criteria (TSC)

GREEN FINANCE

Technical Screening Criteria (TSC) are specific, measurable performance thresholds and conditions that an economic activity must meet to qualify as green under a taxonomy such as minimum energy efficiency standards, GHG emission intensity limits, or biodiversity protection requirements. Under the ACGTG,

Transition Risk

TSCs are defined for each eligible activity across twelve priority sectors and form the operational core of the taxonomy.

Example: Under the South African Green Finance Taxonomy, a solar PV project must demonstrate a minimum plant factor of 20% and ensure that land use change impacts are assessed and mitigated before classification as a Tier 1 eligible energy activity. Kenya's Green Finance Taxonomy sets specific water efficiency thresholds for green buildings, requiring at least 20% water savings relative to standard construction as part of its TSC for the buildings sector.

Thematic Investing GREEN FINANCE

Thematic investing is an investment strategy focused on long-term macro trends such as climate change, renewable energy, water scarcity, or biodiversity loss, selecting investments based on exposure to these themes regardless of sector or geography. It is a primary approach used by institutional investors to align capital with ACGTG priority sectors.

Example: Ninety One's Global Environment Fund (formerly Investec Asset Management), headquartered in South Africa, applies thematic investing to companies globally that are enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy, including several African clean energy and sustainable agriculture businesses. Old Mutual Investment Group's Responsible Investment team in South Africa offers thematic ESG funds to institutional investors seeking exposure to clean energy, green infrastructure, and sustainable agriculture across Africa.

Transition Finance GREEN FINANCE | MFG.

Transition finance provides capital to high-emitting companies and sectors that are committed to decarbonising over time,

supporting credible, science-aligned transition plans rather than excluding all fossil-fuel-linked activities. Under the ACGTG's three-tier system, Tier 3 activities are transition finance activities: currently carbon-intensive but with verified decarbonisation pathways and sunset provisions.

Example: The Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) provides infrastructure finance to African projects, including transition energy projects in countries where natural gas is replacing coal in the power mix. In Ghana, the development of the Sankofa-Gye Nyame gas field is enabling natural gas to replace heavy fuel oil in power generation, which has been financed as a transitional activity under ACGTG Tier 3 provisions.

Transition Risk GREEN FINANCE

Transition risk is the financial and reputational risk that companies, investors, and banks face as economies move away from high-carbon activities toward low-carbon alternatives driven by policy changes, technological shifts, and changing consumer and investor preferences. Under ACGTG-aligned lending and investment frameworks, transition risk assessment is a mandatory component of green finance due diligence.

Example: South Africa's major banks, including Standard Bank, FirstRand, Nedbank, and Absa, have incorporated TCFD-aligned transition risk assessments into their credit policies, evaluating the stranded asset risk of coal, fossil fuel, and high-carbon manufacturing exposures in their loan books. The Public Investment Corporation (PIC), Africa's largest asset manager, has developed a climate scenario analysis framework to assess transition risk exposure across its ZAR 2.4 trillion investment portfolio, managing on behalf of South African government employees' pension funds.

Vertical Farming

U

Upcycling WASTE | CIRCULAR

Upcycling is the creative reuse of discarded materials or products into new, higher-value items, extending their lifecycle and reducing the need for virgin materials. Unlike downcycling (which degrades material quality), upcycling adds functional or aesthetic value, making it a priority activity within ACGTG Objective 4 (Circular Economy).

Example: Sisi Ni Amani, a Nairobi-based social enterprise, trains youth in upcycling plastic waste into designer furniture and fashion accessories, creating green jobs and reducing plastic pollution simultaneously. Cape Town-based Wren Collective transforms single-use plastic waste collected from Cape Town beaches into hand-painted consumer goods sold internationally. In Nigeria, Fundacion Minuto de Dios upcycles electronic waste from Lagos into affordable refurbished electronics for low-income communities.

Urban Sustainability BUILDINGS | TRANSPORT

Urban sustainability is the design, planning, and management of cities in ways that reduce environmental impact, improve quality of life, and build long-term economic and social resilience. African cities are projected to absorb 1.3 billion additional residents by 2050, making urban sustainability an urgent ACGTG priority across the buildings, transport, water, and waste sectors.

Example: Kigali, Rwanda, has become Africa's benchmark for urban sustainability, enforcing strict no-plastic-bag legislation,

investing in green public transport, and developing a climate-resilient master plan that integrates flood risk management, green spaces, and sustainable building standards. Johannesburg's 'Corridors of Freedom' programme is developing transit-oriented development nodes along BRT routes, mixing affordable housing, green buildings, cycling infrastructure, and commercial space to create compact, walkable, low-carbon neighbourhoods.

V

Vertical Farming AGRICULTURE | GREEN DIGITAL

Vertical farming is a method of growing crops in stacked, controlled indoor environments using hydroponic or aeroponic systems, LED lighting, and climate control that dramatically reduces land use, water consumption, and chemical inputs compared to conventional agriculture. It is an emerging ACGTG-aligned activity under Objective 2 (Adaptation) and Objective 3 (Water), particularly relevant for drought-prone and water-scarce African regions.

Example: GreenFinity in South Africa operates container-based hydroponic vertical farms supplying leafy greens to Johannesburg supermarkets with 90% less water than field farming. In Kenya, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported vertical farming pilots for urban food security in Nairobi's informal settlements. Egyptian start-up LettuceGrow has commercialised vertical farming in water-scarce Alexandria, demonstrating ACGTG-aligned adaptation to the Nile Delta's worsening water stress.

Waste-to-Energy

Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)

GREEN FINANCE | FORESTS

The voluntary carbon market (VCM) is a market where organisations and individuals voluntarily purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions, supporting projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gases. Unlike compliance markets (which are mandated by law), VCM participation is discretionary. Africa hosts some of the world's most significant VCM projects, particularly in forestry, soil carbon, and clean energy.

Example: South Pole, Wildlife Works Carbon and Carbon Tanzania are among the largest VCM project developers operating in Africa, generating carbon credits from REDD+, soil carbon, and clean energy projects. Africa represents approximately 11% of global VCM supply but receives only a fraction of VCM revenue relative to project impact. Kenya's Northern Rangelands Trust manages one of Africa's largest community-based VCM projects, channelling millions of dollars in carbon revenues to 35 Northern Kenyan pastoral communities.



Waste Hierarchy WASTE

The waste hierarchy is a framework that ranks waste management options in order of environmental preference: prevention first, then reuse, recycling, recovery (including energy recovery), and finally landfill disposal as the least preferred option. It is the conceptual foundation of ACGTG Objective 4 and guides the structuring of ACGTG Tier 1 (recycling), Tier 2 (energy recovery), and Tier 3 (improved landfill) eligibility thresholds.

Example: Rwanda's National Environment and Land Use Consolidation Law mandates waste hierarchy principles for all municipalities, with Kigali City leading in prevention and reuse programmes that have achieved some of the highest formal waste diversion rates on the continent. South Africa's National Environmental Management Waste Act (NEMWA) codifies the waste hierarchy into law, requiring businesses and municipalities to prioritise prevention and recycling over energy recovery and landfill disposal.

Waste Management WASTE

Waste management encompasses the collection, transport, processing, recycling, and disposal of waste generated by human activity. Under the ACGTG, eligible waste management activities include recycling and composting (Tier 1), waste-to-energy systems (Tier 2), and upgraded landfills with methane capture (Tier 3).

Example: KKR-backed Averda provides integrated waste management services in South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and other African markets, managing formal waste collection, sorting, and landfill operations. In Accra, Ghana, Zoomlion Ghana operates Ghana's largest formal waste collection network. In Nairobi, Mr. Green Africa is Africa's largest informal plastic recycler, building a formalised supply chain connecting over 3,000 waste pickers to international plastic buyers.

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) WASTE | ENERGY

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) refers to technologies that convert non-recyclable waste materials into usable energy, such as electricity, heat, or fuel, through combustion, gasification, or biological digestion. Under the ACGTG, WTE is classified as a Tier 2 activity where it achieves significant energy recovery and GHG emission reductions compared to landfill disposal, but only where

Water Pollution

higher-tier options (reuse and recycling) have been exhausted.

Example: Bioradical, operating in South Africa, converts organic waste streams from food processing companies into biogas and electricity, diverting waste from landfills while generating renewable energy. In Ethiopia, the Reppie Waste-to-Energy plant in Addis Ababa, the first utility-scale WTE plant in Sub-Saharan Africa, processes 1,400 tonnes per day of municipal solid waste to generate 25 MW of electricity, reducing emissions from the Repi open dumpsite, which was one of Africa's largest landfill methane sources.

Water Conservation WATER

Water conservation encompasses all practices, technologies, and policies that reduce water consumption, minimise water waste, and ensure that freshwater resources are used efficiently and sustainably. It is a core eligible activity under ACGTG Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources), and a Do No Significant Harm criterion for all ACGTG priority sectors operating in water-stressed regions.

Example: Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company's (NCWSC) leakage reduction programme has installed smart meters and pressure management systems to reduce non-revenue water from 45% to below 30%. South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation's Water Conservation and Demand Management strategy has supported over 100 municipalities in implementing conservation programmes. In Morocco, the National Priority Programme for Water Economy has installed drip irrigation across over 450,000 hectares of farmland, reducing agricultural water use by 40% in pilot regions.

Water Efficiency WATER | AGRICULTURE

Water efficiency means achieving the same or better outcomes in agriculture, industry, or buildings while using less water through improved technologies, practices, and behaviours. Under the ACGTG, water efficiency standards are embedded in Technical Screening Criteria for eligible activities across the Water, Agriculture, and Buildings sectors.

Example: SunCulture, headquartered in Nairobi, manufactures solar-powered drip irrigation systems for smallholder farmers across Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Côte d'Ivoire, enabling farmers to grow crops with up to 60% less water than flood irrigation. The South African city of Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) implemented grey water recycling in its municipal housing stock following its 2009 water crisis, achieving 25% reductions in household water demand that remain in effect today.

Water Pollution WATER | HEALTH

Water pollution is the contamination of freshwater bodies, groundwater, or coastal marine environments by harmful substances, including industrial effluents, agricultural run-off, sewage, plastics, and heavy metals, making water unsafe for human use and damaging to ecosystems. It is addressed through ACGTG Objective 3 (Water and Marine Resources) DNSH criteria and Objective 4 (Pollution Prevention).

Example: Lake Victoria faces acute water pollution from agricultural run-off, untreated municipal sewage, and industrial discharge from cities in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme (LVEMP) has invested in industrial effluent treatment plants, wetland restoration, and community sanitation to

Water Stress

address pollution at source. In South Africa, acid mine drainage from gold and coal mines in Gauteng and Mpumalanga continues to contaminate rivers and groundwater, with Rand Water investing in advanced treatment to protect Johannesburg's water supply.

Water Scarcity WATER

Water scarcity exists when demand for freshwater exceeds available supply or when water quality limits usability for people or ecosystems. Over 300 million Africans already live in water-scarce environments, a figure projected to more than double by 2050 as climate change intensifies. It is the primary driver of ACGTG Objective 3 (Sustainable Use of Water and Marine Resources).

Example: Cape Town's "Day Zero" water crisis (2017–2018), when the city's dams fell to below 15% capacity during a prolonged drought, led to emergency water restrictions and a USD 450 million investment in demand management, desalination, and groundwater development. The Lake Chad Basin, once one of Africa's largest freshwater bodies, has shrunk by 90% since the 1960s due to overextraction and climate change, threatening the food and water security of over 40 million people in Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Cameroon.

Water Security WATER

Water security is the reliable availability of sufficient, acceptable-quality water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems, and production, combined with an acceptable level of water-related risks. It is a central concern of ACGTG Objective 3 and is cross-linked with Objective 2 (Climate Change Adaptation), given that water stress is one of Africa's most acute and escalating climate impacts.

Example: Cape Town's "Day Zero" water crisis prompted the Western Cape Government

to invest in desalination plants and aquifer recharge, expanding the region's water security portfolio. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II, transferring water from Lesotho's mountains to South Africa's Gauteng province, is one of Africa's largest water security infrastructure projects, ensuring supply to over 15 million people.

Water Stewardship WATER | MANUFACTURING

Water stewardship is the responsible use, management, and governance of water resources through collective action by businesses, governments, and communities, ensuring availability, quality, and accessibility for all users and dependent ecosystems. The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard provides a globally recognised framework for water stewardship aligned with ACGTG Objective 3.

Example: SABMiller (now AB InBev Africa) has implemented the Alliance for Water Stewardship programme across its South African and Ugandan breweries, reducing water intensity per hectolitre of beer produced by 25% and engaging watershed stakeholders in collective water governance. Anglo American operates a water stewardship programme in South Africa's water-stressed Northern Cape region, monitoring groundwater impacts from its mining operations and engaging local municipalities and communities in shared water governance frameworks.

Water Stress WATER

Water stress is the pressure on water resources from demand exceeding supply, typically measured as the ratio of total freshwater withdrawal to total available freshwater. It worsens with climate change, population growth, and agricultural expansion. In 2024, over 20 African countries were classified as experiencing high or extremely high water stress,

Wildlife Corridor

making water stress a central concern of ACGTG Objective 3.

Example: The World Resources Institute (WRI) Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas ranks Northern Africa as the world's most water-stressed region, with countries like Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia withdrawing more freshwater annually than their renewable freshwater supply. South Africa's entire Vaal Basin, providing water to 40% of South Africa's GDP, is classified as a water-stressed catchment, driving major investments in water recycling, demand management, and inter-basin transfer schemes.



Watershed WATER | FORESTS

A watershed (also called a drainage basin or catchment area) is an area of land in which all rainfall and snowmelt drain to a common water body such as a river, lake, or reservoir. Protecting watersheds is critical for water security and is a core ACGTG-eligible activity under Objective 3 (Water and Marine Resources) and Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation) through Payment for Ecosystem Services and reforestation programmes.

Example: The Tana Watershed in Kenya is the primary source of water for Nairobi's 5 million residents and a major driver of hydroelectric power generation. The Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund, managed by The

Nature Conservancy, pays upstream farmers to practice sustainable land management, protecting the watershed's water yield and quality. The Congo Basin watershed, spanning six countries, is one of Africa's most significant and is the primary target of REDD+ programmes protecting the Congo Basin's extraordinary carbon stocks.

Wetland Conservation WATER | FORESTS

Wetland conservation refers to the protection and sustainable management of wetland ecosystems, including swamps, marshes, floodplains, peatlands, and mangroves, which provide critical services, including water purification, flood regulation, biodiversity habitat, and carbon storage. Under the ACGTG, wetland protection is an eligible activity under Objective 3 (Water) and Objective 5 (Biodiversity).

Example: Uganda's Lake Victoria wetlands support the livelihoods of over 3 million people and provide critical water purification, flood buffering, and fish nursery functions. Uganda's National Wetlands Conservation Programme has gazetted over 30,000 km² of wetlands for protection. The Bale Mountains Eco-Region in Ethiopia hosts Africa's largest Afroalpine ecosystem and the Harenna Forest, a carbon-rich peat-soil forest protected through the Bale Mountains REDD+ project, generating carbon credits and conserving the water catchment for 12 million Ethiopians.

Wildlife Corridor FORESTS | BIODIVERSITY

A wildlife corridor is a protected strip or network of natural habitat that connects isolated patches of the ecosystem, enabling animals to move safely between habitats for feeding, breeding, and genetic exchange. Wildlife corridors are an ACGTG eligible activity under Objective 5 (Biodiversity Conservation) and are increasingly important as climate change forces species range shifts.

Zero Waste

Example: The Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area spanning Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Angola is one of the world's largest wildlife corridors, protecting elephant migration routes across 520,000 km² of Southern African savannah. In Kenya, Wildlife Works Carbon's Kasigau Corridor protects a critical wildlife movement corridor between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, enabling the movement of elephants, lions, and leopards between the parks while generating REDD+ carbon credits.

Z

Zero-Carbon Building BUILDINGS

A zero-carbon building is a highly energy-efficient structure that produces no net carbon dioxide emissions from its operations, typically achieved through a combination of passive design, renewable energy generation, and energy storage. Zero-carbon building design is the frontier of ACGTG Tier 1 performance in the buildings sector and is increasingly viable across Africa, given falling solar PV costs.

Example: The CSIR Net Zero Energy Building prototype in Pretoria demonstrates how African climate conditions, high solar irradiance and moderate temperatures enable zero-carbon building design at commercially viable costs. Growthpoint Properties, South Africa's largest listed REIT, is pursuing a portfolio-wide net zero carbon target, retrofitting existing commercial buildings with solar PV, LED lighting, smart energy management systems, and green building certifications across its South African, Kenyan, and Ghanaian portfolios.

Zero Waste WASTE | CIRCULAR

Zero waste is a philosophy and system design goal that aims to eliminate the concept of waste, ensuring all discarded materials are returned to the economy as raw materials or nutrients, with no residuals sent to landfill or incineration. It represents the highest ambition of ACGTG Objective 4 (Circular Economy) and underpins Africa's evolving EPR frameworks.

Example: The City of Kigali, Rwanda, has implemented mandatory waste separation at source across all residential and commercial premises, achieving some of the highest formal waste diversion rates on the continent. In Cape Town, the Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership operates a zero-waste-to-ocean programme with community beach clean-up coordinators and plastic source reduction campaigns. South Africa's P&PIETA trains waste sector workers in zero-waste circular economy skills, supporting the green jobs pipeline for the waste and circular economy sector.



Address:

**Victor Otieno & Associates Building
Joseph Kang'ethe Road, Woodley
P.O. Box 5264 – 00200
Nairobi, Kenya**

Phone: +254 757 917 741

Email: info@jacobs ladder.africa