



AEZO NEWSLETTER

Africa's Special Economic Zones: Weekly Continental Pulse



African SEZs Profiling Initiative

An investor searching for a site in Africa can only consider the zones they can find and only trust the information they can verify.

That is the gap the African SEZ Profiling Initiative was built to close. Six weeks after the July United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)- Africa Economic Zones (AEZO) webinar, the African SEZ Profiling Initiative is moving beyond onboarding into a broader effort to update and expand Africa's zone profiles.

IS YOUR ZONE ON THE MAP – AND UP TO DATE?

African SEZ Profiling Initiative

Review, update, or add your zone profile on DIPS.



Already published?

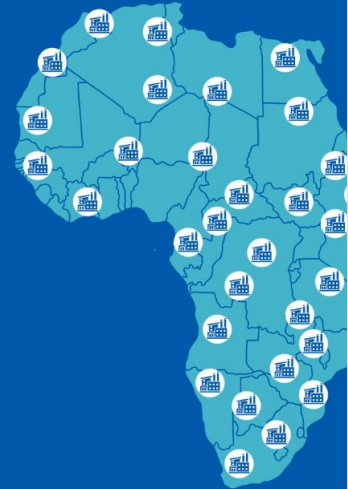
Review and update your profile.



Not yet represented?

Join the initiative and create one.

Approved zone profiles are published on investment.unido.org



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



AFRICA
ECONOMIC
ZONES
ORGANIZATION



DIPS
Digital Investment Promotion Solutions



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01

SECTION 01

Latest African SEZs

Country news in alphabetical order (A → Z)

CM CAMEROON

Afreximbank, IsDB and CDEC line up to finance industrial zones

Three major financiers — Afreximbank, the Islamic Development Bank and the Caisse des Dépôts (CDEC) — have signalled interest in backing MAGZI's programme to rehabilitate its existing estates and develop 14 new industrial sites, an effort valued at roughly 1,125 billion FCFA.

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EG EGYPT

China's Tongling Jieya invests \$67M in a medical-products complex at Ain Sokhna

China's Tongling Jieya Biotechnology has broken ground on a 160,000 m² plant for disposable medical and hygiene products in the SCZONE's Ain

Sokhna zone. The project is expected to create around 450 jobs and reach an annual capacity of 8.1 billion units.

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EG EGYPT

Russia advances a \$7bn Suez industrial zone and the El-Dabaa nuclear build-out

Cairo and Moscow are deepening industrial cooperation across two flagship projects: a dedicated Russian Industrial Zone at Ain Sokhna inside the Suez Canal Economic Zone, expected to attract around \$7 billion in investment and create some 35,000 jobs under a 49-year land concession, and the four-reactor El-Dabaa nuclear plant on the Mediterranean coast, now targeting first grid connection in 2028. Together the projects anchor a widening Egypt-Russia partnership that reached more than \$6.6 billion in bilateral trade in 2024.

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KE KENYA

Ruto sets six-month deadline for the Sh12bn Mombasa Special Economic Zone

President William Ruto has given a six-month completion deadline to the 535-acre Mombasa SEZ in Jomvu, a Sh12 billion (about \$100 million) project developed with DP World, Mombasa Free Zone Ltd and the county government. The zone is expected to host 67 manufacturing, warehousing and export firms, create nearly 8,000 direct jobs, and offer investors a preferential power tariff of about Sh10 per kWh.

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MA MOROCCO

African Development Bank backs Gotion's EV battery gigafactory in Kenitra

The African Development Bank has mobilized **\$110 million** for Gotion Power Morocco to build what it calls Africa's first integrated lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) battery plant, in the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra free zone.

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MZ MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique: Chinese manufacturer of solar panels starts construction at MozParks Beluluane Industrial Park

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NG NIGERIA

The Evolution of Petroleum and Energy Special Economic Zones in Nigeria

Operating inside the Lekki Free Trade Zone, Nigeria's 650,000-barrel-per-day Dangote Petroleum Refinery — already the world's largest single-train facility and its biggest aviation-fuel exporter — is opening a roughly \$47 billion IPO on 14 September. Analysts frame the listing as a test of whether African investors can own the continent's largest industrial assets rather than merely host them

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CM CAMEROON

ECA helps Cameroon ease access to trade information under AfCFTA

The UN Economic Commission for Africa is helping Cameroon's Ministry of Trade validate a step-by-step goods-trading guide and a national trade information portal, cutting the procedural and information barriers that keep MSMEs from using AfCFTA preferences.

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ET ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia logs about \$23m in early AfCFTA trade as tariff schedules lag

Ethiopia recorded roughly \$23 million in combined AfCFTA exports and imports between October 2025 and May 2026 — with Kenya absorbing about

93% of its exports — even as only 16 of 54 member states have finalized full tariff schedules.

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02

SECTION 02

The African Pulse

Continental integration & trade briefs

ANALYSIS

AfCFTA, SEZs and local champions: the levers to secure Africa's industrial future

Africa still accounts for less than **2% of global manufacturing output**.

This analysis maps three converging levers to change that: optimizing the continent's 230 special economic zones across 43 countries, using the **AfCFTA** to lift intra-African trade from its current 14.4%, and backing vertically integrated local champions that process resources on the continent rather than exporting them raw.

[READ THE ANALYSIS →](#)



World Bank: SEZs could unlock a national industrial renaissance

A new World Bank study finds South Africa already has the infrastructure and institutional capacity to run world-class zones — its 12 operational SEZs have generated about ****R14.8 billion**** in revenue and more than ****30,000 jobs****. Anchored by the Tshwane Automotive SEZ, the report argues integrated manufacturing clusters can help exporters capitalize on the AfCFTA.

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Introduction to DIPS for African SEZs - UNIDOxAEZO Webinar

We are pleased to share key moments from the recent AEZO x UNIDO Digital Tutorial Webinar on “Introduction to UNIDO’s Digital Investment Promotion Solutions (DIPS)”. This session brought together African SEZ Authorities, Ministry representatives, IPA/IPI staff, AEZO members and partners to explore how the DIPS platform can support SEZ profile management, data validation, investment promotion, and FDI intelligence across the continent. 🌐 As we move forward, AEZO remains committed to advancing the African SEZ Profiling Initiative, strengthening digital transformation, and enhancing the visibility and competitiveness of Africa’s Special Economic Zones.

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