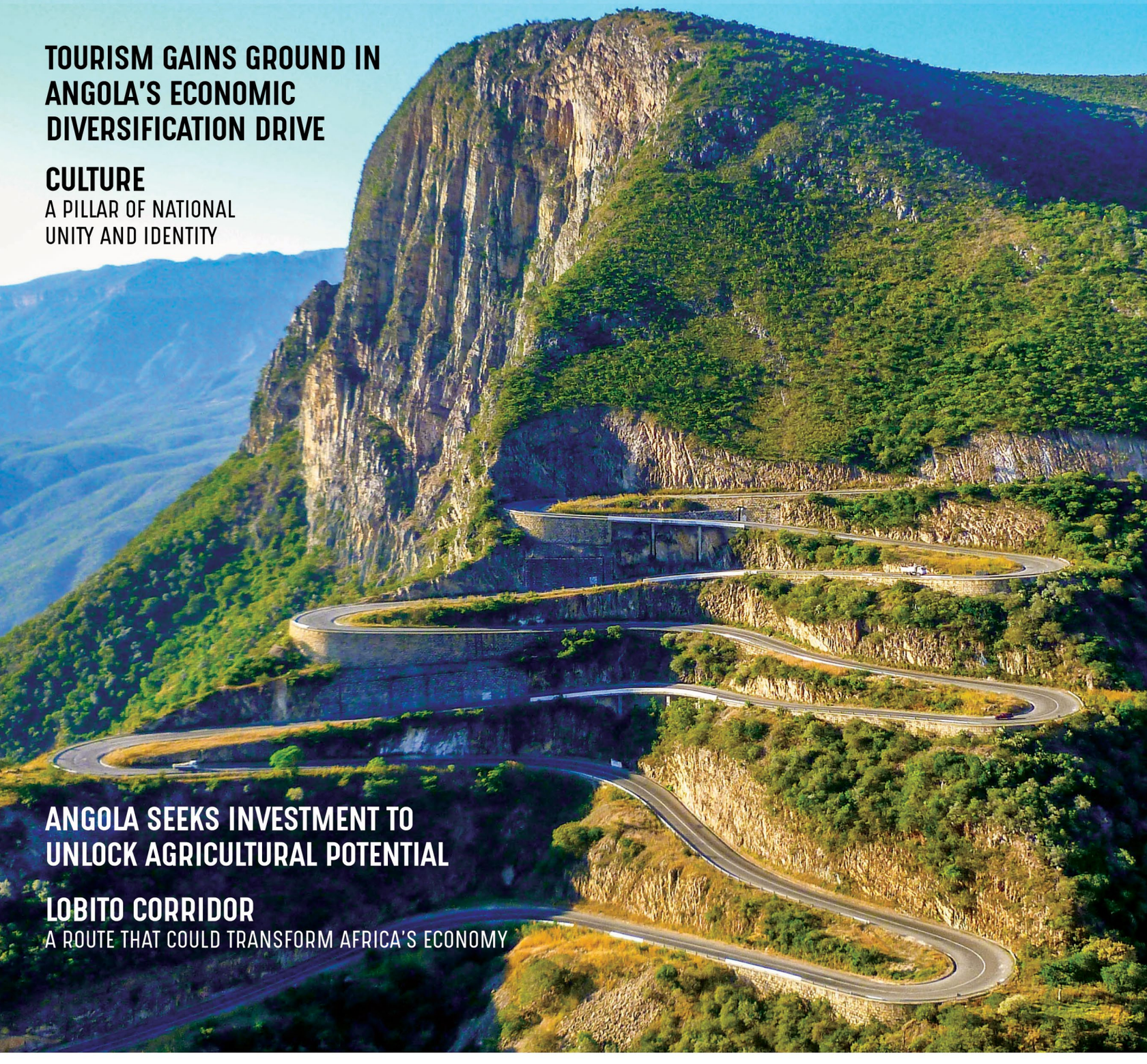
11 November, 2026

ANGOLA

CELEBRATING 51 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE WITH REMARKABLE PROGRESS



TOURISM GAINS GROUND IN ANGOLA'S ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION DRIVE

CULTURE
A PILLAR OF NATIONAL UNITY AND IDENTITY

ANGOLA SEEKS INVESTMENT TO UNLOCK AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

LOBITO CORRIDOR
A ROUTE THAT COULD TRANSFORM AFRICA'S ECONOMY

GULF TIMES in association with GOVERNO DE ANGOLA | Embassy of Angola in Qatar

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Ambassador's Message

On the Occasion of the 51st Anniversary of Angola's Independence



On 11 November 2026, the Republic of Angola proudly celebrates the 51st Anniversary of its National Independence. This historic occasion allows us to honour the courage and sacrifice of all those who fought for freedom, sovereignty and the right of the Angolan people to determine their own destiny.

More than five decades after the proclamation of Independence, Angola continues to consolidate peace, strengthen its democratic institutions and pursue sustainable and inclusive development. The country is advancing its economic diversification, with particular emphasis on agriculture, energy, infrastructure, transport, tourism, industry, health, education and the development of human capital.

This anniversary is also an opportunity to reaffirm Angola's commitment to peace, dialogue and multilateralism. Guided by its own historical experience, Angola continues to promote peaceful solutions to conflicts and to contribute to stability, reconciliation and cooperation in Africa and beyond.

Relations between the Republic of Angola and the State of Qatar are founded on friendship, mutual respect and a shared aspiration to transform political goodwill into practical cooperation. In recent years, our bilateral engagement has gained renewed momentum, particularly in the fields of energy, investment, tourism, aviation, agriculture, infrastructure and trade.

The growing cooperation between Angolan and Qatari institutions, including the participation of QatarEnergy in Angola's oil and gas sector, represents an important step towards a broader and more diversified partnership. Angola welcomes Qatari investors and offers significant opportunities supported by abundant natural resources, a strategic geographic position, a young population and an increasingly favourable business environment.

The Embassy of the Republic of Angola in Doha remains committed to strengthening political dialogue, facilitating contacts between institutions and business communities, and promoting a better understanding of Angola's economic potential, history and cultural richness.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Angola, I express our sincere appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and to the Government and people of Qatar for their friendship, hospitality and continued support for the development of relations between our two countries.

I also extend warm greetings to the Angolan community residing in Qatar and encourage each of its members to continue representing our country with dignity, unity and patriotism.

As we celebrate 51 years of Independence, we look to the future with confidence and determination, guided by the values of peace, national unity, solidarity and development.

Long live the Republic of Angola.

Long live the friendship between Angola and Qatar.

António Coelho Ramos da Cruz

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Angola to the State of Qatar.

ANGOLA
Supplements Team

Marketing Manager
Violette Fakhry

Editor
Arnjad Vanimal

Business Promoter
Waed Daoud

Layout / Graphics
A.K. Vinay Kumar

Circulation in-charge
Sherif Samy



Advertising Office
Gulf Times/Arrayah Building,
C Ring Road,
P.O. Box 533, Doha Qatar
Tel: (+974) 44466621
Fax: (+974) 44310992
email: advr@gulf-times.com

Texts by the Embassy of the Republic of Angola in the State of Qatar, written by national writers, invited for this purpose.

THE MAIN FOCUS OF ANGOLAN DIPLOMACY

Global Peace and Security

"The main focus of Angolan diplomacy is to contribute to global peace and security, strengthen ties of friendship and economic cooperation, and promote cultural and scientific exchange among the peoples and nations of our planet."

It was with these words that the President of the Republic of Angola, João Lourenço, defined the current path of Angolan diplomacy while addressing the diplomatic corps accredited to Angola on January 24, 2025.

This diplomatic corps comprises representatives of governments, international organizations, and other foreign institutions accredited to Angola.

In fact, João Lourenço's words clarify the coherence of Angola's diplomatic actions and initiatives within the international community, in the face of a highly complex international landscape that calls for and underscores the need for ongoing dialogue among states.

From this perspective, Angolan diplomacy has been committed to setting the country on a path to development, cooperating with countries and institutions to implement cooperation strategies and programs in Angola, where the business environment is steadily improving—a trend that encourages foreign investors to commit their financial, technical, technological, and other resources.

On that occasion, the Angolan President assured that "Angola will remain faithful to its tradition of promoting interactive and inclusive dialogue, paying special attention to the African continent."

Between 2025 and 2026, Angolan diplomacy worked to ensure that the country built sufficient trust to enable Angola to host, carry out, and even lead far-reaching and high-profile initiatives in the areas of peace and security, infrastructure and finance, the promotion of dialogue for development, and issues related to climate change.

On November 11, 2026, Angola will mark 51 years of independence, reaffirming its commitment to peace, stability, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, sustainable development, and cooperation among nations.

Over the past year, Angola assumed the rotating presidency of the African Union during a year marked by persistent conflicts in various regions of Africa and the world, political instability, recurring coups d'état and democratic setbacks in some parts of Africa, severe health, economic, and humanitarian crises, climate and energy challenges, and a troubling weakening of traditional mechanisms for dialogue and international cooperation.

In June 2025, it hosted the U.S.–Africa Business Forum, and in November, the third Conference on Financing for Infrastructure



President of the Republic of Angola, João Lourenço



President of the Republic of Angola, João Lourenço

Development in Africa—forums that made it possible to mobilize considerable financial resources for investment in key sectors of Africa's economy.

Between 2025 and 2026, Angola also hosted the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Conflict Prevention and Resolution, the 11th International Summit of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, the 2nd International Women's Forum for Peace and Democracy, the Summit on Tourism Investments, and the Luanda Biennial – the Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace.

Representing Africa, Angola participated in the G20 Summit in South Africa, TICAD in Japan, the African Union – European Union Summit, held in Luanda, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville (Spain), advocating positions that contribute to the reform of the international financial architecture and fairer access to financing for development.

Angola's involvement in hosting major events was aimed at mobilizing financial resources for investment in sectors vital to Africa's economic life, such as integrated economic corridors, rail networks, transnational highways, the African Single Electricity Market, the development of the African Aviation Master Plan, digital transformation, health, agribusiness, and tourism, emphasized President João Lourenço, during a meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited in Luanda.

Angolan diplomacy remains committed to advocating for the need for Africa's industrialization, the development of African human capital, and technological innovation, as well as to a partnership based on equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibility as a response to global challenges.

Finally, Angolan diplomacy remained committed to defending multilateralism as the only way to contribute to the restoration of world order and prevent the geopolitical and economic reconfiguration of the world for the sole benefit of the superpowers, reiterating the importance of the United Nations as a guarantor of international peace, stability, and security.

ANGOLA'S PORTS

Strategic Platforms for Growth and Regional Integration

With a prime Atlantic coastline and a network of ports undergoing modernisation, Angola is strengthening its role as a logistics hub for Central and Southern Africa.

Angolan ports play a strategic role in the national economy, serving as links between domestic production, international markets and countries across the region.

More than just entry and exit points for goods, they serve as platforms for trade, logistics and investment, supporting sectors such as agriculture, industry, mining, and oil and gas, while contributing to the creation of new value chains.

Data from the National Maritime Agency show the growing scale of this activity. In 2025, the Port of Lobito handled approximately 1.85 million metric tonnes, while container traffic increased by 33% to reach 30,939 TEU. The Port of Namibe handled approximately 1.8 million metric tonnes, while the Port of Cabinda handled approximately 113,659 tonnes and the Port of Soyo approximately 232,000 tonnes.

The Port of Luanda, the country's main port hub, handled 5,440 ships in 2025, recording a 15% increase in maritime traffic and a 7% increase in cargo handling.

These figures reflect the growing importance of port activity as Angola expands its productive capacity and seeks to diversify its economy.

From Ports to Economic Corridors

The potential of these ports, however, lies in their connectivity with the rest of the country.

The modernisation of port infrastructure, combined with the expansion of railway and road networks, is facilitating the development of economic corridors capable of bringing producing regions closer to domestic and international markets.

The Lobito Corridor is the most advanced example of this strategy. By connecting the Angolan coast to the interior of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia, it is strengthening Angola's role in the transport of minerals and other goods, bringing landlocked countries closer to international markets.

In the south, the expansion of the Port of Namibe and the concession of the Moçâmedes Railway could create a new logistics hub, connecting the port to the Angolan interior and to the borders with Namibia and Zambia.

This connection could support the development of the Southern Corridor, boosting the transport of minerals from Huíla, Cubango, Cuando and Namibe, while creating conditions for new industrial activities, including the processing of iron ore from Cassinga.

A New Economic Landscape

The port strategy is also contributing to the development of a more diversified economy.

By improving connections between ports, railways, roads and production zones, Angola is creating the conditions to reduce logistics costs, facilitate trade and enhance business competitiveness. This transformation is being accompanied by the development of other strategic infrastructure, such as the Caio Deepwater Terminal in Cabinda, as well as projects aimed at strengthening the country's connectivity and logistics capacity.

Each port, of course, has its own specific role. Luanda maintains a central position in domestic trade; Lobito is assuming growing importance in regional corridors; Namibe offers considerable potential linked to mining and development in the south; Cabinda plays an essential role in the province's connectivity; while Soyo remains closely linked to the oil and gas supply chains.

A Gateway to Central and Southern Africa

Angola's geographical location gives its ports a strategic advantage.

By connecting the Atlantic to the markets of Central and Southern Africa, the country can play an increasingly important role in regional logistics chains, supporting trade between coastal countries and landlocked states.

To realise this potential, continued investment will be needed in port modernisation, the digitisation of procedures, customs efficiency and connectivity between ports, railways and highways, thereby reducing costs and transit times.

It will also be important to deepen private-sector participation and promote public-private partnerships, attracting international operators and investors to projects with a regional scope.



Angola as a Logistics Hub

Port development is therefore linked to a broader economic ambition: to transform Angola's Atlantic location into a competitive advantage for the country and the region.

With the Lobito Corridor taking shape, the Southern Corridor gaining momentum and the country's main ports expanding their capacity, Angola is building a logistics network capable of bringing producers, markets and investors closer together.

For international partners, including the Gulf countries, this development opens up new opportunities for cooperation in logistics, infrastructure, industry, mining and trade.

Angolan ports are thus evolving from mere transit points for goods into platforms for the country's development, regional integration and international presence.

As the Minister of Transport summarised, "the transportation sector is—we have no doubt—the bridge connecting Angola to the future. And this future has already begun." This vision reflects a commitment to developing infrastructure capable of strengthening Angola's economic integration and its connections with major African and international markets.

"We want to continue to inscribe our country's name in the history of the African continent and on the world's major stages," emphasised Minister Ricardo D'Abreu.

Angola open to foreign investment in agriculture to strengthen food security

Angola is seeking domestic and foreign investment in modern farming, irrigation, infrastructure and agricultural technology to boost production, strengthen food security and unlock the sector's potential



The adoption of modern and efficient agricultural practices, technical assistance, irrigation systems and access to credit are key factors in boosting Angolan agriculture and ensuring food security.

Official data estimate that Angola has more than 50 million hectares of land suitable for agricultural development, including 35 million hectares of arable land. The country also benefits from fertile soils, abundant water resources and a climate favourable to cultivation.

However, ensuring that people have regular physical, social and economic access to sufficient quantities of safe and nutritious food requires the integration of new technologies into the country's agricultural activities.

Achieving food security also requires infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of agricultural produce from rural areas to urban centres.

Agricultural practices in Angola have considerable potential, and farmers are eager to increase production. However, several challenges continue to hinder their efforts, including difficulties in accessing fertilisers, training personnel and implementing irrigation systems to increase the production of various crops.

Given this situation, the country needs substantial investment and is open to participation from both domestic and foreign investors.

Entrepreneurs can invest in micro-irrigation systems, small dams, water conservation facilities and crop-drying infrastructure to accelerate agricultural growth and stabilise supplies throughout the year.

The development of technical training programmes, scholarships and continuing education initiatives, alongside the establishment and strengthening of agricultural research and experimentation centres, offers another avenue for investment.

Investors can also focus on constructing facilities for receiving, cleaning, grading,



packaging and preserving agricultural products, as well as developing a refrigerated transport network.

Other opportunities include establishing mechanisms to ensure fair prices, improve access to credit and technical assistance, and connect farmers with markets, thereby helping to stem rural exodus.

The Angolan government guarantees legal protection for investments and offers tax incentives, including the repatriation of profits to investors' countries of origin.

To increase agriculture's contribution to the lives of Angolans, it is essential to establish direct links between agricultural production hubs and urban consumption centres. This would help reduce post-harvest losses and ensure decent incomes for producers.

Investment must therefore also encompass human, technical and scientific resources, alongside the establishment and strengthening of agricultural research and experimentation centres, to ensure the sector's long-term sustainability.

Another viable strategy is to introduce policies that promote women's participation in agricultural activities by providing technical assistance and recognising traditional seed-selection and soil-management practices developed by women farmers, while integrating these with scientific methods.

Another important measure is to organise women-led groups to manage their own seed and agricultural input funds, thereby strengthening their organisational autonomy.

Angola also needs to develop agroecological alternatives, including bio-inputs, organic fertilisers, biological pest control, intercropping, crop rotation and community-based monitoring of pests and diseases. Investment in these areas is therefore of considerable importance.

Overall, Angola offers promising opportunities for investment not only in agriculture but also in other sectors that are critical to the country's development.



WHY INVEST IN ANGOLA

01

Emerging market with significant growth potential

02

Favourable investment policies significant growth potential

03

Growing young workforce

04

Strategic location for Southern and Central Africa

05

69 million hectares of Floresta

06

1,650 km of coastline and capacity to irrigate 7 million hectares

07

35 million hectares of arable land (14% in use)

08

38 of the 50 key industrial minerals used

09

Potential to reduce imports worth 3 billion USD in priority sectors

Angola makes progress in energy production with focus on expanding the national electricity system

Angola is investing in hydroelectric and solar power projects to expand electricity generation, improve national grid connectivity, increase access to electricity and strengthen energy security, with a target of reaching 9,000MW of installed capacity by 2027

The Angolan government plans to increase installed electricity generation capacity from the current 6,400 megawatts (MW) to 9,000 MW by 2027 through the expansion of renewable energy sources and the completion of major hydroelectric and solar infrastructure projects currently under way across the country.

According to the latest government data, hydropower dominates the national energy mix, accounting for about 70% of total electricity production, followed by thermal power, while photovoltaic solar energy is experiencing rapid growth.

This expansion offers domestic and foreign investors opportunities to invest in various economic and social sectors, supported by improved access to electricity.

The central objective of the expansion plan is to increase the national electrification rate from 43% to more than 60%, while ensuring a transition towards cleaner energy sources.

To ensure the efficient transmission and distribution of the electricity generated, the government has been directing investment towards consolidating the National Transmission Grid (RNT) and expanding the National Electricity System (SEN).

Among the priorities is the interconnection of the northern, central and southern electricity systems, which will enable clean energy generated in the Kwanza River Basin to reach regions experiencing the greatest electricity supply shortfalls.

At the same time, work is under way to expand peri-urban and rural distribution networks, alongside the construction of new substations and high- and medium-voltage transmission lines.

Infrastructure Support

Particular emphasis is being placed on the





rehabilitation and construction of dams and solar power plants.

Angola's electricity generation portfolio includes major hydroelectric projects operating in the Kwanza Basin, notably the Laúca Hydroelectric Power Plant, with a capacity of 2,070 MW; the Cambambe Hydroelectric Power Plant, upgraded to 960 MW; the Capanda Dam, with a capacity of 520 MW; and the Matala Dam.

In the photovoltaic sector, the solar power plants in Benguela Province, which are already operational, stand out. These include the Biópio solar farm, with a capacity of 188 MW, and the Baía Farta solar farm, with approximately 96 MW.

Smaller-scale solar photovoltaic installations have also been completed in Huambo, Bié and Moxico, helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in the country's interior.

Future Projections

Large- and medium-scale solar power plants and new dams planned for completion by 2027

Solar projects are at an advanced stage of implementation in the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Moxico, Malanje and Bié. These form part of the electrification programme for the eastern and central-southern regions, using off-grid and hybrid systems equipped with battery storage.

In the hydroelectric sector, the main priority is the Caculo Cabaça Hydroelectric Project in Cuanza Norte Province. With a projected capacity of 2,172 MW, it is set to become the country's largest hydroelectric power plant.

This infrastructure plays a pivotal role in the national strategy to diversify the energy mix and expand the electricity grid into the central, southern and eastern regions of the country.

In addition, Angola is studying and planning new small- and medium-scale hydroelectric projects, known as Small Hydroelectric Power Plants (SHPs), in secondary river basins in the east and south of the country. These initiatives aim to decentralise electricity generation and promote local socioeconomic development.



The Angolan government is also continuing to implement major water and energy infrastructure projects, particularly its programme to combat the effects of drought in the south, with a focus on the Ndue, Calucuve and Baynes (Buner) dams in the Cunene River Basin.

The Ndue Dam, built on the Caundo River, a tributary of the Cunene, has a storage capacity of approximately 145 million cubic metres of water. It is designed to ensure water supplies for human consumption and livestock along its spillway.

The Calucuve Dam, located in the municipality of Cuvelai, is designed to retain more than 500 million cubic metres of water, enabling the irrigation of agricultural land and supporting rural communities historically affected by prolonged drought.

Within the framework of regional cooperation and the shared management of water resources, the Baynes Hydroelectric Project, commonly associated with the Buner area, is also moving forward. It is a joint venture between Angola and Namibia, located along the lower reaches of the Cunene River.

With an estimated capacity of approximately 600 MW, to be shared equally between the two countries, the project aims to strengthen electricity supply stability in southern Angola and facilitate integration into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) electricity market.

Alongside efforts to expand electricity generation, the government continues to prioritise water security and the development of agriculture and livestock farming in the southern region of the country.



LOBITO CORRIDOR

A route that could transform Africa's economy



More than a century after the first train crossed Angolan territory heading inland, the Lobito Corridor is emerging with a mission that goes beyond transporting minerals. It places Angola at the centre of a new economic geography in Southern Africa.

The focus is no longer simply on transporting copper and cobalt to the Atlantic. The ambition is to connect producers with markets, bring regions closer together, create jobs, boost agriculture, attract investment, develop value chains and transform an historic railway route into a platform for continental economic integration.

It is this broader vision that places the Lobito Corridor among Africa's most ambitious infrastructure projects.

A Story More Than a Century Old

The history of the corridor dates back to 1902, when British entrepreneur Robert Williams received the concession to build a railway connecting the Port of Lobito to the interior of the continent.

Construction began in 1903, and by 1929, the railway had reached Luau, near the border with what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Two years later, in 1931, the first shipment of copper from what was then the Belgian Congo arrived in Lobito by rail.

The economic logic of that era was straightforward: extract mineral resources from the interior of Africa and transport them to the Atlantic.

The geography remains largely unchanged, but the ambition of the project has evolved. Today, the infrastructure, originally developed primarily to transport minerals, has the potential to serve a much broader purpose: supporting the production, movement and transformation of wealth in the countries along its route.

For decades, the Benguela Railway was one of Angola's main economic arteries. Minerals, goods, people and agricultural products all moved along the line.

Cities, towns and commercial activities linked to railway transport developed along its route, but the civil war brought this progress to a halt.

Much of the infrastructure was destroyed, and the corridor lost its regional function.

With the restoration of peace in 2002, a new phase began, with the reconstruction of the Benguela Railway becoming a major priority in efforts to revive the national economy.

Following an extensive reconstruction process, the railway connection between Lobito and Luau was restored.

However, the rehabilitation of the line highlighted an important reality: a railway alone is not enough to create an economic corridor. It needs to be supported by an efficient port, logistics platforms, storage facilities, roads, agricultural production, energy, services, trade and access to markets.

It was against this backdrop that the Lobito Corridor concept gained momentum.

The project has since acquired a scope that extends well beyond copper and cobalt exports. Agriculture, regional trade, energy, education, technical training, employment and the development of value chains have all become part of its strategic vision.

It is in this broader dimension that one of Angola's greatest opportunities lies.

The international importance of the Lobito Corridor gained further prominence in December 2024, when then US President Joe Biden visited Angola. The trip, the first by a sitting US president to the country, placed the project at the centre of the bilateral economic agenda.

During the visit, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)



From Railway to Economic Corridor

The new vision moved beyond viewing Lobito simply as a link between Angola's Atlantic coast and its eastern border.

The project now encompasses the port, railway, roads, logistics platforms, agricultural zones, mining areas, energy infrastructure, vocational training and access to markets.

The corridor runs through Angola to the border with the DRC, with plans to extend the railway network into Congolese territory and Zambia.

In 2023, Angola, the DRC and Zambia, together with the United States, the European Union, the African Development Bank and the Africa Finance Corporation, signed a memorandum of understanding to support the development of the corridor. Italy subsequently joined the cooperation framework.

announced financing of up to $553 million for the rehabilitation and modernisation of the Lobito railway line and mineral terminal. The investment covers approximately 1,300km of railway between the Port of Lobito and Luau.

The scale of this support reflects the strategic importance attached to establishing an Atlantic trade route connecting Central Africa's mining regions with international markets.

Copper and cobalt are important raw materials for various technologies and the global energy transition. An Atlantic outlet could provide mining regions in the DRC and Zambia with an alternative route to international markets.

With financing from the DFC and other investments, the Lobito mineral terminal is expected to reach a handling capacity of 4.6 million tonnes annually, while mineral transportation costs could fall by up to 30%.

However, the corridor's most significant impact may extend well beyond the volume of minerals transported.

Agriculture: One of the Major Opportunities

One of the main objectives of the new strategy is to ensure that economic activity extends beyond the railway tracks and benefits communities along the corridor.

A farmer in Huambo, for example, may increase production but still struggle to expand sales without adequate storage, reliable transportation, preservation facilities, credit and access to markets.

Logistics platforms and a railway connection to the Port of Lobito can help bring agricultural producers closer to national, regional and international markets.

In this area, the European Union has allocated €50 million to support agricultural value chains along the corridor in Angola, focusing on cereals, horticulture and tropical fruits.

The programme includes measures to boost productivity, support farmers' organisations and establish agribusiness logistics and processing companies.

The Caála Logistics Platform in Huambo Province is part of this strategy. The project involves an investment of €8 million and aims to connect producers with storage, transportation and marketing facilities.

The first shipment of avocados from Huambo to Europe through Lobito demonstrates the potential of this emerging economic dynamic.

From this perspective, the challenge is not simply to get trains moving but to ensure that economic activity develops along the entire corridor.

Connecting with the DRC

For a long time, one of the main limitations of the corridor lay beyond Angola's borders.

The railway needed an efficient connection within the DRC to realise its full regional potential.

This challenge began to be addressed in July, when the DRC government approved a public-private partnership with Mota-Engil to rehabilitate the railway line connecting Dilolo, Kolwezi, Lubumbashi and Sakania.

In August, Kinshasa moved forward with the signing of the cooperation agreement and railway concession contract.

The project covers approximately 1,004.5km and is estimated to cost around $1.258 billion. It includes studies, rehabilitation, modernisation, potential extensions, commercial operations and maintenance of the railway line.

The concession will run for 30 years, after which the infrastructure is expected to revert to the Congolese state, as stipulated in the agreement.

This connection is one of the key components needed to consolidate the corridor.

Without an efficient railway network on the Congolese side, the connection risks ending at the border. The rehabilitation of the Dilolo-Sakania line would open up the possibility of establishing a continuous railway link between the Atlantic coast and the DRC's major mining regions.

The Third Dimension: Zambia

Zambia is another essential component of the corridor's regional expansion.

The project envisages a new 515km railway link within Zambian territory and a further 315km extension in the DRC, with the aim of connecting the mining regions of both countries to the Port of Lobito.

Developing this network will require substantial financial resources.

The Africa Finance Corporation is seeking to mobilise between $3 billion and $5 billion for the regional development of the corridor, with the participation of African and international financial institutions.

Financial close is expected by 2027, while completion of the overall project is targeted for 2030.

If these targets are achieved, Lobito will become much more than a corridor of national importance to Angola. It will emerge as an economic infrastructure network of regional significance.

More Than Copper and Cobalt

This is where one of the key challenges for Angola lies.

If the corridor is used solely to transport minerals, the country will gain an important export route but may remain largely a transit economy, in which part of the wealth enters the country, crosses its territory and leaves.

If, on the other hand, the infrastructure encourages the development of factories, transport companies, storage centres, processing facilities, agricultural production, financial services, workshops, technical schools and new employment opportunities, the corridor could generate an economy of its own along its route.

The international strategy for Lobito points towards precisely this possibility.

Agriculture, logistics, processing, vocational training, energy, trade and employment are all incorporated into programmes associated with the project.



The European Union also plans to support technical and vocational training initiatives in transport, logistics, agriculture, digital technologies and renewable energy.

The objective is to equip young people with the skills required for the new employment opportunities that the corridor is expected to generate.

Angola can strengthen its position as an Atlantic gateway for the DRC and Zambia, two landlocked countries without direct access to the sea. This strategic position could boost activity at the Port of Lobito, stimulate transport and logistics services, encourage local production and create opportunities for Angolan businesses.

Economic diversification is another potential benefit. Agricultural products from Huambo, Bié, Benguela, Moxico and other provinces could gain access to new markets. Transport companies could attract new clients, small industries could emerge around logistics hubs, and young people could find new employment opportunities.

The corridor could also bring Angola's inland provinces closer to international markets, creating new opportunities for businesses and communities along its route.

A New Economic Geography

The regional scope of the project is reshaping the economic geography of Southern Africa.

For the DRC and Zambia, the corridor represents a new connection to the Atlantic.

For Angola, it offers the opportunity to transform Lobito into one of the main gateways for goods entering and leaving Central and Southern Africa.

For the Southern African Development Community (SADC), it strengthens regional integration through infrastructure connecting countries across national borders.

The European Union considers Lobito one of the major strategic transport routes in Southern Africa and links the project to increased trade, mobility and the development of value chains between Angola, the DRC and Zambia.

In this context, borders become more than geographical dividing lines; they can become gateways for economic activity and regional cooperation.

The Real Test

Despite its considerable potential, the success of the Lobito Corridor cannot be measured solely by the number of kilometres of railway rehabilitated, the number of locomotives in operation or the volume of minerals transported.

The essential question is different: What will remain for Angola after the minerals reach the Port of Lobito?

The answer could determine the project's true economic and social impact.

More trains mean more transportation.

More producers, businesses, factories, skilled professionals, exporters and service providers mean development.

That is the difference between a mere export corridor and a genuine development corridor.

For Angola, the challenge is to use this infrastructure to create value within the country.

It is not enough to transport minerals to the sea. It is equally important to bring opportunities to communities.

Angola, whose economy has long depended heavily on raw materials, has an opportunity to use one of its most important infrastructure assets to expand production and diversify its economy.

Ultimately, the project's success will be measured by the ability of Angola, the DRC and Zambia to transform a railway connection into an economic link between countries, markets and people.

The Lobito Corridor already has the rails. The real question now is how far those rails can take Angola and Southern Africa.

OIL, GAS AND MINING

The Triad that Sustains Angola's Economy

QatarEnergy's entry into Blocks 8 and 22 in Angola's Kwanza Basin, through a partnership with operator Shell and Angola's national oil company, Sonangol, marks a strengthening of the international exploration and production portfolios of both countries.

Under the ownership structure of the two blocks, Shell will hold a 50% participating interest and serve as operator, while QatarEnergy will hold 30% and Sonangol the remaining 20%. The agreement marks the Qatari state-owned energy company's entry into Angola's energy sector.

The partnership agreement, signed in September this year, establishes a framework for exploration, appraisal, development and production. It also sets out minimum work commitments, exploration periods, bonuses, contributions, penalties, and the applicable fiscal and contractual terms.

The partnership represents a strategic match for both countries. It comes at a time when QatarEnergy is seeking to expand its international presence in this key economic sector, while Angola needs investment and specialised expertise to maximise the value of its oil and gas resources.

As is widely recognised, the oil, gas and mining sectors remain strategic pillars of Angola's economy, accounting for a significant share of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). They also make substantial contributions to financing the State Budget (OGE), while serving as the country's main sources of export earnings and foreign exchange inflows.

Official figures for 2025 further highlight the sector's importance. During the year, it generated $31.3 billion in export revenues, with crude oil remaining the country's leading export product, accounting for $24.5 billion.

Natural gas contributed $3.24 billion, while refined petroleum products generated $429 million in export revenues.

In the mining subsector, production grew by 7.9% to reach 15.2 million carats, while sales totalled 17.7 million carats, generating revenues of $1.79 billion.

During the year under review, the oil sector accounted for 13.94% of Angola's GDP and generated 57.25% of the State's tax revenues.

Overall, hydrocarbons and mineral resources represented 97.88% of Angola's total exports, underscoring their strategic importance in driving economic growth, generating foreign exchange earnings and supporting the sustainability of public finances.

Oil – From Discovery to Production

Oil exploration in Angola dates back to 1910, when the country was still under Portuguese colonial rule. However, the first exploratory drilling operations began only in 1955 in the Congo Basin.

Twelve years later, in 1966, significant oil reserves were discovered at the Benfica-1 well, marking the beginning of commercial oil production in Angola. Initially, production was undertaken by the Cabinda Gulf Oil Company (CABGOC) at onshore oil fields in the Cabinda region.

Following Angola's independence on November 11, 1975, and the outbreak of the civil war, investment in the oil sector declined and petroleum production experienced significant disruptions.



The restoration of peace in 2002 ushered in a new era for Angola's petroleum industry. It paved the way for increased production and exports, driven by multinational investment and the discovery of new deep-water reserves in the Atlantic basins.

This period marked the beginning of an oil boom, characterised by rising production and government revenues. Angola emerged as one of the leading oil producers in sub-Saharan Africa, with daily production reaching approximately two million barrels.

Production Decline

From 2016 onwards, Angola experienced a decline in oil production, with annual decreases of up to 15%, causing average daily output to fall below one million barrels.

This trend was attributed to a governance model that was no longer suited to the evolving realities of the global oil industry, the absence of modern legislation and the increasing maturity of the country's oil fields.

The lack of competitive bidding rounds for new concessions, reduced investment in exploration and growing international competition for investment capital also contributed to the downturn.

In response to these challenges, the Angolan government introduced a major reform agenda in 2017, approving a series of legal and regulatory instruments aimed at addressing the sector's challenges, redefining the governance model of the petroleum industry and creating a business environment capable of competing with other investment destinations in attracting private capital.

Among the measures adopted, particular emphasis was placed on the legal and fiscal framework for incremental production. This was designed to encourage additional oil output beyond the baseline volumes agreed between the National Agency for Oil, Gas and Biofuels (ANPG) and operators of mature and marginal oil fields.

These reforms proved effective. Between 2017 and 2025, contracts for several oil blocks were renewed, notably the extensions of Blocks 0, 14, 15, 17 and 18.

The new contractual terms not only secured the continued presence of major international operators in Angola but also helped maintain national oil production above one million barrels per day.



Investment

Over the past nine years, approximately $99 billion has been invested in active oil concessions and new petroleum contracts. During the same period, 38 exploration wells were drilled, resulting in 16 new discoveries.

In addition, 72 new concessions were negotiated, of which 44 have already been signed, while the remaining 28 are undergoing the approval process.

From 2025 to 2029, a further $79 billion in investment is projected across several existing oil concessions, with the objective of maintaining Angola's crude oil production above one million barrels per day.

In the coming years, 37 new onshore blocks will be made available for investment in the country's inland basins, alongside additional deep-water and ultra-deep-water blocks.

At the same time, efforts are continuing to expand Angola's exploration frontier, discover new hydrocarbon resources, replenish reserves and create the conditions needed to sustain oil production over the long term.

In the refining segment, the priority is to achieve fuel self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on imports. To this end, the Luanda Refinery has been expanded, while the first phase of the Cabinda Refinery has been completed, with a processing capacity of 30,000 barrels of crude oil per day. This is expected to meet nearly 10% of the country's domestic fuel demand.

To further strengthen domestic refining capacity, construction is under way on the Lobito Refinery, a project valued at more than $6.27 billion and designed to process 200,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

The refinery is expected to begin producing essential petroleum products, including fuel oil, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and naphtha, in 2027, with full completion scheduled for 2029.

Meanwhile, the Soyo Refinery project is being restructured by the government. Once completed, the facility will have a processing capacity of 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

The Barra do Dande Ocean Terminal has also commenced operations. With a storage capacity of 572,000 cubic metres, the terminal eliminates the need for floating storage of liquid and gaseous fuels while creating the conditions for Angola to become a regional distribution hub for refined petroleum products.

Overall, these investments are aimed at strengthening the country's energy security, reducing the cost of fuel imports and promoting the development of Angola's domestic industrial sector.

Natural Gas

The Angolan government considers natural gas a central element of its energy transition strategy. This led to the creation of the New Gas Consortium in 2020, which is currently developing the country's first two non-associated gas fields, Quiluma and Maboqueiro.

The consortium comprises Azule Energy, as operator, with a 37.4% participating interest; Cabinda Gulf Oil Company (CABGOC), with 31%; Sonangol E&P, with 19.8%; and TotalEnergies, with 11.8%.



Additionally, the Gajajeira-01 exploration well, located in Block 1/14 offshore in Angola's Lower Congo Basin, represents a significant milestone. It marks the country's first gas discovery with estimated reserves exceeding one trillion cubic feet, strengthening the prospects of the Gas Master Plan.

The Gas Master Plan envisages the development of a domestic gas industry aimed at harnessing natural gas for electricity generation, fertiliser production and the petrochemical and steel industries.

Alongside efforts to consolidate its oil and gas value chain, Angola is also investing in biofuels and renewable energy. This approach promotes the development and utilisation of diverse energy sources and demonstrates the country's commitment to a balanced energy transition that combines energy security, environmental sustainability and social development.



Revitalisation of the Mining Sector

In recent years, Angola's mining sector has undergone a significant transformation, focusing on production diversification, value addition, transparency and digitalisation, with the objective of strengthening its role as a key pillar of the national economy.

The sector currently represents 2% of the country's GDP and employs more than 50,000 workers.

To date, Angola has identified 36 of the 51 minerals considered critical worldwide, many of which are essential for the production of clean energy technologies. These include chromium, cobalt, copper, graphite, iron ore, lead, lithium, manganese, neodymium, praseodymium, nickel, silver, titanium and zinc, at different stages of development across the mineral value chain.

In an increasingly competitive global environment, Angola has recognised the opportunities ahead and created the conditions to position its mining sector as an attractive investment destination and a competitive partner in international markets.

As a result, the government has adopted a new governance model for the mining sector, based on a clear separation between public institutional responsibilities and operational and business activities, with the aim of reducing the State's direct involvement in commercial activities.

This model focuses on transforming Angola into a more diversified mining country, capable of developing multiple value chains through the participation of domestic and international private-sector players.

Given the growing focus on the mining sector, the need arose to establish the Angolan Mining Chamber (CAMINAS), aimed at promoting a competitive, sustainable and investment-friendly business environment.

The organisation seeks to strengthen competitiveness, encourage innovation and facilitate access to global market opportunities. It also aims to serve as an entry point into the mining sector and a bridge between the national mining ecosystem and international partners.

ANGOLA IS CURRENTLY THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST DIAMOND PRODUCER BY VOLUME AND VALUE.

Initiatives to revitalise mining activities have reinforced Angola's position as one of the world's leading diamond-producing nations, supported by strong production capacity and strategic investments that strengthen its standing in international markets.

Angola is currently the world's third-largest diamond producer by volume and value.

With this considerable potential, Angola is positioning itself as an attractive destination for further investment in the sector, particularly from Qatar, which has recently launched a diamond exchange aimed at transforming the country into a regional hub for the global trade in rough and polished gemstones.

The platform, which forms part of Qatar's national Vision 2030 strategy to diversify the economy, is expected to strengthen the country's role in the global diamond trade. Its activities include trading, high-security storage, certification, customs services and specialised logistics.

At a time when Angola is preparing to establish its own Diamond and Precious Metals Exchange, Qatar's experience could prove valuable in advancing the project. The aim is to ensure greater transparency in transactions, improve price formation mechanisms and increase the value of mineral resources extracted in the country.

Copper and Gold

Alongside diamonds, Angola is also gaining prominence in copper and gold production.

Since 2025, the first phase of the Tetelo Copper Mine in Uíge Province has been operational, with a production capacity of 4,000 tonnes per day.



The project includes technical training and professional integration programmes. Its second phase was launched in September this year, adding a further daily extraction and processing capacity of 3,000 tonnes and bringing the total capacity to 7,000 tonnes per day.

Regarding gold, whose global supply reached a record 5,002 tonnes in 2025, the completion of Angola's first gold refinery is expected soon.

The facility will enable gold refining, certification and commercialisation within the country, contributing to Angola's efforts to strengthen its control over and add value to its gold resources.

Tourism and its contribution to Angola's revenue generation



At a time when countries are seeking to diversify their economies and identify new sources of revenue, Angola has recognised tourism as one of the sectors with significant potential to drive economic growth and promote sustainable development.

Beyond offering cultural, natural and recreational experiences, tourism supports an extensive service sector encompassing transport, hospitality, restaurants, retail, handicrafts, entertainment and other revenue-generating activities.

In Angola, tourism is increasingly seen as an opportunity to diversify revenue sources and reduce dependence on traditional sectors, particularly the oil industry.

Through its participation in international events and the hosting of activities that have attracted internationally renowned figures, Angola has begun to raise its profile as an emerging tourist destination in Africa. These initiatives have also helped generate greater interest among international visitors in exploring the country.



Under the Angola 2050 Agenda, the country aims to attract two million tourists by 2050. Achieving this target will require annual growth of around 4%, alongside sustained investment in strategic areas. These include improving access roads, airports, signage, internet connectivity, water and electricity supplies in tourist destinations.

The arrival of domestic and international tourists offers opportunities to generate foreign exchange. Their spending during their stay also supports businesses, creates jobs and increases the circulation of income throughout the economy.

However, transforming tourism into a major driver of economic diversification requires more than attracting visitors. Improving infrastructure, raising service standards and creating favourable conditions for investment remain important challenges.

Angola must also strengthen its ability to convert visitor numbers into revenue, business opportunities and lasting economic benefits for local communities. This will depend on the continued development of



diverse tourism products, ranging from beach, adventure, nature and cultural tourism to gastronomy and heritage experiences. Such diversification can help attract private investment and strengthen the country's international profile.

As part of its efforts to expand tourism, the Angolan government has introduced visa exemptions for citizens of 98 countries. The measure is intended to facilitate entry, encourage tourist arrivals and simplify travel procedures.

Under Presidential Decree No. 189/23, published in the Official Gazette, citizens of eligible countries can enter Angola without a tourist visa for stays of up to 30 days per entry, subject to a maximum of 90 days per year.

The country has also stepped up its international promotional activities by participating in major tourism fairs to showcase its natural and cultural attractions under the official brand, "Visit Angola – The Rhythm of Life".

Under this brand, Angola made its presence felt this year at FITUR in Madrid, Spain, one of the industry's major annual international events. Angolan tour operators used the opportunity to establish partnerships with European travel agencies and tour operators.

Angola subsequently participated in CMT Stuttgart in Germany, a trade fair focused on leisure and consumer tourism. The country attracted interest from visitors keen to explore destinations such as Tundavala and Miradouro da Lua.

It also took part in ITB Berlin, Germany, widely regarded as one of the world's leading tourism trade shows. Angola assumed the role of host country, becoming the third African nation to do so.

Following its participation in Berlin, Angola continued its promotional campaign at IMEX Frankfurt 2026, a major international trade show for business events and the MICE industry, covering meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions.

On the African continent, the country participated in WTM Africa in Cape Town and INDABA in Durban, South Africa. Both events provide platforms for promoting destinations and developing partnerships across the regional tourism market.

These international initiatives have helped Angola present its tourism potential to a wider audience, supporting its emergence from a relatively little-known destination to one attracting growing international attention.

Developing the MICE sector

Another important element of Angola's tourism strategy is the development of event tourism, particularly the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) sector.

Angola aims to position itself as a meeting place for Africa by investing in business tourism, hosting major international summits and promoting dialogue and diplomacy for peace on the continent.

To support this ambition, the country has launched the "Meet in Angola" brand and the Angola Convention Bureau platform to attract international conferences, meetings, exhibitions and other large-scale business events.



By promoting these initiatives at major international trade fairs, Angola aims to turn its natural, cultural and historical assets into sustainable sources of employment, investment and economic diversification through the hosting of international events.

The country has also sought to demonstrate its organisational capacity and commitment to developing tourism by hosting major international gatherings. One example this year was the Global Tourism Forum Investment Summit, which brought together hundreds of international investors, tourism operators and leaders of major investment funds. Among the prominent participants were Mozambique's President, Daniel Chapo, and Namibia's Prime Minister, Elijah Ngurare.

Growth in international arrivals

Data released by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) indicate that Angola welcomed 223,140 international tourists in 2025, an increase of approximately 28% compared with the previous year. The figure also exceeded the level recorded before the Covid-19 pandemic.



The performance placed Angola among the African destinations reporting strong tourism growth during the period.

The result is particularly significant when compared with 2019, when the country recorded approximately 217,000 international arrivals. In 2024, Angola received around 180,000 foreign tourists, according to the available figures.

Tourism revenue

The increase in visitor numbers is also beginning to be reflected in the sector's economic performance.

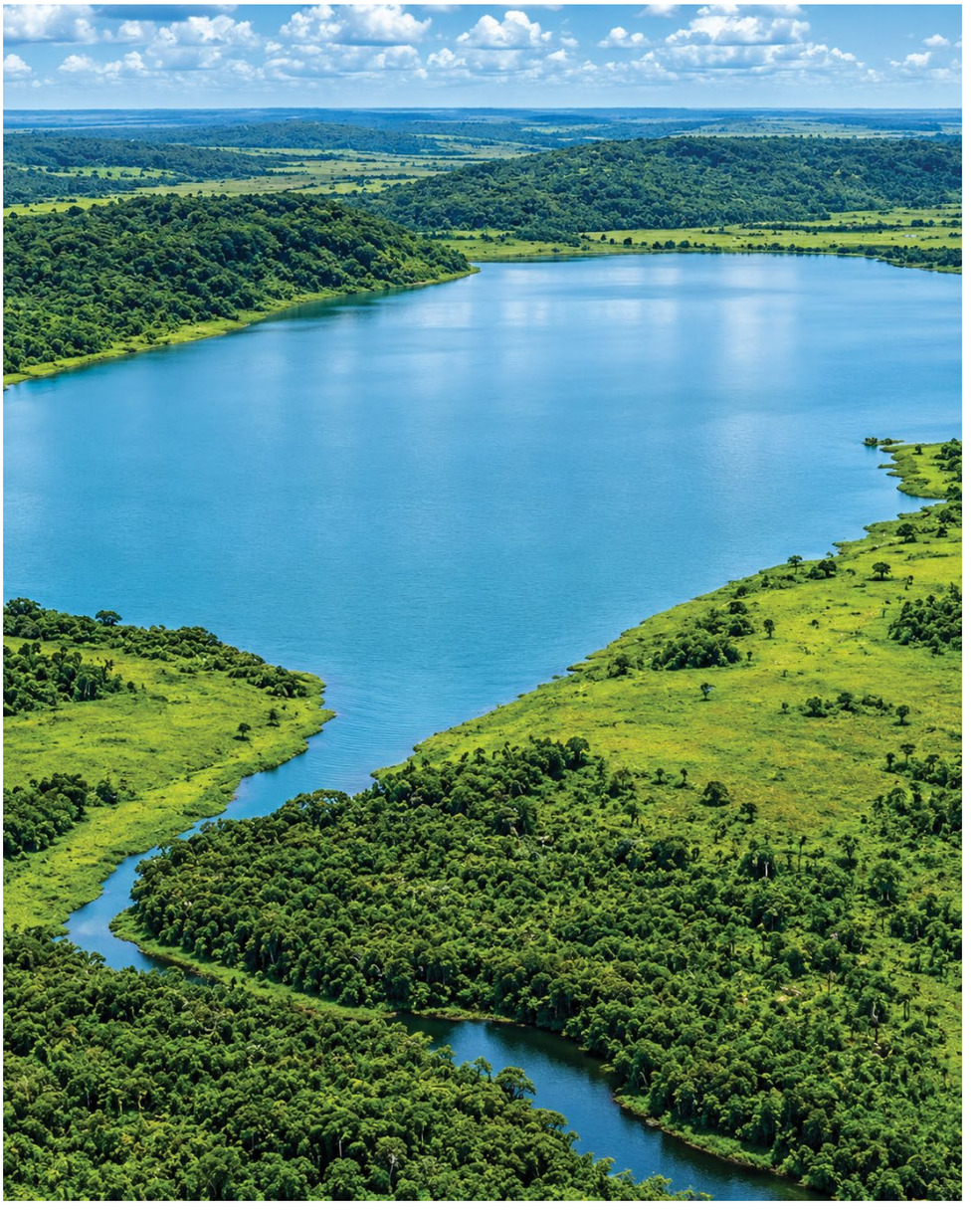
Tourism revenue approached $667 million in 2025, according to released data.

In the first half of 2026, Angola recorded approximately 107,000 international arrivals, indicating that the recovery trend observed in the previous year continued.

These figures underline the potential for tourism to play an increasingly important role in diversifying the national economy. A growing tourism sector can support businesses across hospitality, catering, transport, retail, leisure, culture and other services, while creating employment and new investment opportunities.

Angola has considerable natural and cultural resources that could help it secure a larger share of the African tourism market. Turning this potential into tangible economic results, however, will require sustained investment, effective planning and continuity in public policies.

With the right infrastructure, a wider range of tourism products and stronger international promotion, tourism can move beyond its current role as a secondary economic sector and become a more significant source of revenue, employment and sustainable development.




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CULTURE

A Pillar of National Unity and Identity

Angolan culture, with its rich ethnolinguistic diversity, plays a central role in preserving national identity and strengthening social cohesion in a country shaped by centuries of resistance and multiculturalism.

As during the colonial period, when culture played a fundamental role in social and political mobilisation, it remains essential to building a nation that is conscious of its historical heritage and focused on the future.

In Angola, cultural traditions are strongly rooted in respect for elders, traditional authority, and family and community ties, which coexist with the structures of the modern state.

This diversity is reflected in languages, customs, dances and beliefs, with each region preserving its own distinctive expressions. Together, they form a vibrant and evolving cultural mosaic that connects Angola's past, present and future.

Cultural expressions such as music, dance, literature and the visual arts reflect patterns of human behaviour, knowledge, experiences, attitudes, values, beliefs, religion, language and social hierarchy. They have all played a significant role in shaping the country's national identity.

Forged through diversity, Angola comprises a mosaic of ethnic communities, including the Ovimbundu, Ambundu, Bakongo, Tchokwe, Ganguela and many others. Their languages, including Kimbundu, Umbundu, Kikongo and Cokwe, are not merely means of communication but living repositories of proverbs, stories and ancestral wisdom.

Although Portuguese is the official language and serves as a common language of national unity, Angola preserves dozens of national languages, many of Bantu origin, which remain essential to the transmission of oral traditions, proverbs and songs.

The country's ethnic and linguistic diversity is represented by several major communities. The Ovimbundu, the largest ethnic group, are concentrated mainly on the central plateau and have strong agricultural and oral traditions. The Ambundu are found primarily in Luanda and Cuanza-Norte, with cultural expressions reflected in urban life and Carnival celebrations. The Bakongo, who live mainly in the northern provinces of Uíge and Zaire, have a heritage closely linked to the ancient Kingdom of Kongo and its spiritual traditions.



The Lunda-Chokwe communities, found in the east and northeast, are widely recognised for their artistic heritage, including the iconic Mwana Pwo masks and geometric Sona sand drawings, the latter recognised by UNESCO as an important cultural tradition.

Other communities include the Ganguela, Nhaneca-Humbe, Ovambo, Herero and Khoisan peoples, particularly in the southern parts of the country.

Music is perhaps the best-known expression of this cultural richness. Semba and Kuduro, deeply rooted in Angola's urban culture, continue to inspire generations, while traditional genres such as Rebita, Txianda, Kazukuta, Kabetula, Efundula, Kintueny, Caçanda, Sawoia, Otchingange and Olundongo keep alive the legacy of traditional social gatherings and celebrations.

Traditional music also lives on through iconic instruments such as the batuque, marimba and kissange. The latter is an important musical symbol among various communities across the country. These instruments remain part of celebrations, rituals and contemporary musical fusions.

The country's cultural heritage also echoes the famous words of Angola's first President and founder of the nation, António Agostinho Neto: "To the marimba and the kissange, to our Carnival, we shall return." The phrase continues to resonate as an affirmation of national identity and the connection between culture and collective memory.

Angola has a rich calendar of traditional and cultural festivals that help preserve its heritage while celebrating identity, religious beliefs and ethnic roots. Carnival, celebrated with particular enthusiasm in Luanda and Benguela, is among the country's largest showcases of performing arts, bringing together dance, music, social satire and artistic creativity.

Cuisine is another important pillar of Angolan cultural identity and national pride.

Beyond nourishment, traditional food provides a means of expressing authenticity, preserving collective memory and strengthening ties between communities in an era of globalisation. Traditional dishes reflect cultural resilience and the continuity of customs and knowledge passed down through generations.

Angolan Culture in the Diaspora

Angolan culture has gained increasing prominence abroad, becoming an important asset for public diplomacy, national identity and international engagement. This growing visibility is driven by both official government initiatives and the dynamism of the Angolan diaspora.

Strategic partnerships have strengthened cultural cooperation with countries that share historical links with Angola, promoting artistic exchanges, fairs and joint exhibitions with partners such as Cuba and Brazil.

Cultural centres abroad also serve as important platforms for collecting, preserving and promoting Angolan art and heritage. They organise lectures, cooking workshops and visual arts exhibitions for local communities and members of the diaspora.

Initiatives such as the "Visit Angola" project use culinary and artistic showcases in European capitals, including Brussels, to introduce international audiences to the country's cultural heritage and promote Angola as a tourist destination. Such activities also help preserve cultural links among Angolans living abroad.

Preservation and Promotion of Angolan Culture

The preservation of Angolan culture is marked by efforts to strengthen and revitalise traditional heritage, while also addressing challenges arising from globalisation and the increasing homogenisation of customs.

The National Council of Traditional Authorities, established in 2022, has been working to promote and disseminate cultural identity, while encouraging exchanges between traditional kingdoms and younger generations.

Another important aspect of preservation has been the international recognition of sites of historical significance. The ruins of Mbanza Kongo, the former capital of the Kingdom of Kongo, are recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with participatory management plans supporting their protection and preservation.

Museums across Angola also play an essential role in safeguarding the country's tangible and intangible heritage. Their work includes preserving and documenting historical artefacts, traditional costumes, musical instruments and ritual objects representing the country's diverse ethnic communities. Promoting this cultural diversity helps strengthen a sense of belonging, particularly among young people, who can find in their heritage sources of pride, identity and opportunities for growth.

For Angolan culture to remain a bridge to national unity and an affirmation of identity, the roles of the government and educational institutions are fundamental. Policies that encourage the promotion of the cultural heritage of every region are equally important.

Public initiatives must protect endangered languages, support cultural activities and promote education about the country's diverse traditions.

Educational institutions can help bring culture into everyday learning, encouraging students to appreciate different communities as part of the same nation and to respect the traditions of every region.

Valuing diversity and addressing exclusion contribute to building a society that unites rather than divides.

Angola's cultural diversity must be preserved for future generations. Its traditions, values, customs, artistic practices and accumulated knowledge form an important foundation for society, contributing to national identity, social cohesion and economic development.

Preserving Angolan cultural identity must therefore remain an ongoing process of valuing, revitalising and passing on the knowledge, traditions and values that define the people of Angola, from north to south and from Cabinda to Cunene.

Angola is a multicultural and multilingual country, where diverse traditions, national languages, rituals and forms of social organisation contribute to a shared sense of national identity.



Sports Put Angola on the World Stage

Angola gained international recognition in 2026 by hosting a series of world and continental-level competitions across various sporting disciplines, with particular emphasis on water sports, tennis, football, mixed martial arts, wrestling and handball.

The country made history by becoming the second African nation to host a competition featuring high-performance electric boats.

The E1 Luanda GP brought major international figures to Angola, including American basketball legend LeBron James. The event also helped promote tourism and enhance the country's international profile.

Held in Luanda Bay, the competition featured several prominent teams. Team Brady emerged victorious with 157 points, followed by Team Monaco and Team Rafa.

In tennis, one of the highlights was the hosting of an International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tennis Tour Juniors event, the J30 tournament, at Académica Kikuxi Villas Boas in Luanda. It brought together young players from different parts of the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, South Africa, Ghana and China, alongside competitors from the host country.

The tournament provided an important platform for young players to earn ranking points and improve their positions in the international junior rankings.

In football, Angola appointed its first African champion coach to lead the senior national team. Senegalese manager Aliou Cissé took charge of the Palancas Negras, succeeding French coach Patrice Beaumelle, who left the position following the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Morocco in January 2026.

Angola is competing in the qualifying campaign for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations and has been drawn in Group B alongside Egypt, Malawi and South Sudan. The final tournament will be hosted jointly by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, marking the first time the competition will be staged across three countries.

As part of the international mixed martial arts (MMA) circuit, the Kilamba Multi-Purpose Pavilion in Luanda hosted the IMMAF Angola Dipanda Open. The competition brought together more than 200 athletes competing across different categories.

The event strengthened Angola's presence on the international MMA calendar, a discipline in which the country's athletes have been gaining increasing visibility and competitive experience.

Another highlight was the organisation of the 8th Southern African Regional Sports Awards Gala (RASA 2025), which brought together representatives and leading athletes from 16 countries in the region.

The event recognised the achievements of Angolan judoka Rosiana Muhongo Alberto, who received the award for Best Young Female Athlete of the Year in Region 5. She finished ahead of fellow nominees Ruvarashe Makunike of Zimbabwe and Siphiwokuhle Ndlela of Botswana.

The ceremony once again placed Angola in the spotlight of Southern African sport and highlighted the importance of advancing the approval of legislation relating to the National Sports Award.





Luanda also hosted the 47th edition of the African Handball Champions Clubs Cup, one of the continent's major senior club competitions for men and women. The tournament featured 21 teams, with Petro de Luanda of Angola defending the women's title and Egypt's Al Ahly defending the men's crown.

Angola was represented by six teams, including Casa do Pessoal do Porto do Lobito in the women's competition and Petro de Luanda in the men's category. Both made their debut in the tournament.

The succession of international events demonstrates Angola's growing capacity to host large-scale sporting competitions and strengthens its ambition to secure a more prominent position on the international sports map.

Beyond serving as venues for competitions, these events form part of Angola's efforts to establish itself as a destination for international sport. The country aims to use sporting events to promote tourism, stimulate economic activity and strengthen its image abroad.

Strengthening International Sports Cooperation

In sports cooperation, Angola and China discussed ways to strengthen their existing ties during a meeting between Angola's Secretary of State for Sports, Paulo Madeira, and Sun Renan, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Angola.

The discussions included the progress of a Chinese table tennis coach currently working in Angola, providing training and professional development for athletes and coaches affiliated with the Angolan Table Tennis Federation. The initiative is intended to strengthen technical capacity and improve the country's competitive standards in the sport.

Cooperation also extends to fencing, with China reaffirming its interest in supporting the training and preparation of Angolan athletes, as well as organising training camps.



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EMBAIXADA DE
ANGOLA NO QATAR

Contacto
Endereco: 119, Zona 66, Al Dafna, Doha-Qatar
Telefone: (+974)-4482-5111

Email: embaixada.qatar@mirex.gov.ao



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