

Fundraising priorities

October 2025



Afcen

Africa Climate and Energy Nexus



AfCEN priority projects and Grant needs



#	Sector	Priority Project	Priority Phase	Grant Funding Ask	Notes / Use of Funds
1	Energy	Botswana Mega Battery Project	■ Q4 2025	USD 0.5 – 1.0 million	Feasibility, technical modeling, and sizing to de-risk utility-scale battery project; Phase 1 (~USD 0.5 M) unlocks later financing rounds.
2	Energy	Corridor Ecosystems (Namibia)	■ Q1 2026	USD 0.15 million	3-month corridor ecosystem and industrial mapping study; supports government & private-sector coordination for enabling infrastructure.
3	Energy	São Tomé & Príncipe Grid Decarbonisation Summit	■ Q1 2026	USD 0.4 million	Organise and execute a 3 day investment summit
4	Agriculture	Biochar Hyperlocal Data Collection	■ Q4 2025	USD 0.8 million	Pilot to generate localized biochar and soil data; supports production systems, monitoring, and community engagement.
5	Agriculture	AgriConnect	■ Q4 2025	~USD 1.0 million	Seed grant to establish country-level data compacts and digital coordination mechanisms for agricultural investment readiness.
6	Critical Minerals	ECOWAS Investment Summit	■ Q4 2025	USD 0.435 million	Organizing summit logistics, technical advisory, and investment coordination across ECOWAS member states.
7	Critical Minerals	Gypsum Mines / CDCL Tanzania Hydro Portfolio (22 projects)	■ Q1 2026	2.0 million (aggregate)	Packaging and preparing 22 small-hydro projects for investment; development of bankable documentation and investor outreach.
8	Critical Minerals	Tanzania Graphite Engagement	■ Q1 2026	USD 0.15 million	Short technical engagement to support Tanzanian Government–EU dialogue on graphite value chain alignment and policy.
9	Clean Cooking	Tanzania Clean Cooking Strategy	■ Q4 2025	USD 400k	Management of Clean Cooking Coordination Facility, stakeholder convening, and finance strategy design.
10	Clean Cooking	Mozambique Clean Cooking Summit	■ Q4 2025	USD 150k	Host and manage 3-day national summit; deliver advisory on finance plan and institutional framework for implementation.
11	Clean Cooking	Pan-African First Ladies Coalition	■ Q1 2026	~USD 0.3 million	Establish coordination platform and secretariat; regional advocacy and partnership development.
12	Project Preparation Facility (PPF)	Set Up of AfCEN PPF	■ Q4 2025	USD 1.0 million	Design of AfCEN's in-house PPF; includes staffing, legal setup, pilot project fund, and blended finance structuring.
13	Digital Platform	Technical Build (AI-Driven Data Platform)	■ Q4 2025	USD 1.5 – 2.0 million	Build public-good data platform to centralize and standardize African climate and energy project data; includes APIs, analytics, and open-source infrastructure.

AfCEN Priority Projects, Grant funding needs and Funding Opportunities



Sector	Priority Project	Type of Grant Funding	Est. Budget	Notes	Priority	2025/2026 Grant funding Open Calls	Deadline	Active(✓)	Key Bilateral Funders to engage
Energy	Botswana Mega Battery Project	TA Grant / Repayable Grant for DevEx	0.5 – 1.0 M	Phase 1 (\$0.5 M) to unlock later stages	Q4 2025	—	—	—	KfW, SEFA, EEP
Energy	Corridor Ecosystems (Namibia)	Traditional Grant (Study / Consultancy)	0.15 M	3-month corridor ecosystem study	Q1 2026	Next AU-EU LEAP up to €1.5 M	5 Feb 2026	—	Breakthrough Energy, Bayshore Foundation, AFD Sequoia Foundation
Energy	São Tomé & Príncipe Grid Decarbonisation Summit	Traditional Grant (Event Implementation)	0.4 M	3-day investment summit (logistics & coordination)	Q1 2026	—	—	—	AFD
Agriculture	Biochar Hyperlocal Data Collection	Traditional Grant	0.8 M	Biochar production + data collection pilot	Q4 2025	—	—	—	Doen Foundation, Mastercard Foundation OSF
Agriculture	AgriConnect	Traditional Grant	~1.0 M	Set up country compacts for data collection	Q4 2025	—	—	—	Gates Foundation, GCF Caterpillar Foundation
Critical Minerals	ECOWAS Investment Summit	Traditional Grant	0.435 M	Advisory to design summit & coordination	Q4 2025	—	—	—	
Critical Minerals	Tanzania Graphite	Traditional Grant	0.15 M	Gov-EU engagement report	Q1 2026	Next IKI Small Grants €50 k – 200k	TBD	—	Climate Works, EU
Critical Minerals	CDCL Tanzania Hydro Portfolio (22 Projects)	TA Grant	2.0 M (aggregate)	Package portfolio for investment	Q1 2026	—	—	—	EEP, SEFA
Clean Cooking	Tanzania Clean Cooking Strategy	Traditional Grant	0.4 M	Manage Clean Cooking Coordination Facility	Q4 2025	CCAC upto \$2 M	12 Dec	✓	MacArthur Foundation
Clean Cooking	Mozambique Clean Cooking Summit	Traditional Grant	0.1 M	Summit + advisory work for finance plan	Q4 2025	Enabel (\$ – 125 k available)	—	—	
Clean Cooking	Pan-African First Ladies Coalition	Traditional Grant	0.3 M	Coordination + advocacy platform	Q1 2026	—	—	—	Canada Global Affairs
PPF	Set-Up of Project Preparation Facility (PPF)	Traditional Grant + Blended Finance	1.0 M	TA + capitalization for pipeline funding	Q4 2025	Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance (\$150 k – 250 k)	9 Nov 2025	✓	Abu Dhabi Fund for Dev, Qatar Fund for Dev
Digital Platform	Technical Build (AI Data Platform)	Traditional Grant + Blended Finance	1.0 – 2.0 M	Donor funding for public-good AI platform	Q4 2025	Imaginable Futures (< \$250 k)	31 Oct 2025	✓	LGT VP, GIZ Novastar, GSMA, Cardona, Humanity AI

Total Grant Funding Needs: \$8M- 9M

2025: \$5-6M

2026: 3M

Total Estimated 2025 Open Call Potential:

≈ USD 1.5 – 1.6 million + (0.5M) = \$2M- \$2.5M

AfCEN Project Pipeline — Grant Funding Unlocking Future Investment (2025 – 2026)

Funding Mechanism	Projects (2025–2026)	
Traditional Grant	Early-stage enabling and coordination projects Build evidence, convene stakeholders, and align investment ecosystems. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corridor Ecosystems (Namibia, █ Q1 2026) Biochar Hyperlocal Data Collection (█ Q4 2025) AgriConnect (█ Q4 2025) • ECOWAS Investment Summit (█ Q4 2025) Tanzania Graphite (█ Q1 2026) Tanzania Clean Cooking Strategy (█ Q4 2025) Mozambique Clean Cooking Summit (█ Q4 2025) Pan-African First Ladies Coalition (█ Q1 2026) 	
TA (Technical Assistance) Grant	Project preparation and de-risking activities De-risks infrastructure portfolios and builds investment readiness. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botswana Mega Battery (█ Q4 2025) CDCL Tanzania Hydro Portfolio (█ Q1 2026) PPF Setup (█ Q4 2025) 	
Results-Based Financing (RBF)	Performance-linked disbursement models (under development) Future phase to tie funding to measurable outcomes. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Cooking Programmes (█ 2026) Agriculture Data Systems (█ 2026) 	
Repayable / Concessional Financing	Transition phase for bankable projects Moves TA-ready projects into execution and scaling. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botswana Mega Battery (█ 2026) CDCL Tanzania Hydro Portfolio (█ 2026) PPF Setup (█ 2026) 	
Project Finance	Large-scale infrastructure build-out Used for physical project implementation. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botswana Mega Battery (█ 2026) CDCL Hydro Portfolio (█ 2026) 	
Equity	Private or strategic investment participation Long-term capital for scalable platforms. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botswana Mega Battery (█ 2026) Digital Platform Build (█ 2025) 	
Blended Finance	Combines grants, concessional debt, and private capital Used to catalyse investment readiness and risk-sharing. Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPF Setup (█ 2025) Digital Platform Build (█ 2025) 	

Working with the Bayes team, we are developing a suite of tools to streamline access to funding information, track application progress, and prioritize engagement:

1. **AI-supported funder database** – maps funders by sector, grant type, and funding cycle, while automatically tracking open calls and deadlines. The database also captures **bilateral engagement priorities for each funder** and links them to specific AfCEN projects to guide strategic outreach.
2. **Secure project datarooms** – dedicated to each AfCEN project, housing concept notes, budgets, and supporting materials to accelerate application submissions and facilitate investor diligence.
3. **Interactive funding dashboard** – visualizes connections between funding opportunities, project readiness, and application status. It also highlights **project-specific funding gaps, open calls, and priority funders** to inform next steps.

AfCEN Core Funding and Fundraising Outlook

Category	Estimated Annual Need (USD)	Potential Funders / Mechanism	AfCEN Core Budget to built out over the next week
Core operations (staff, offices, systems)	M / year	DOEN Foundation, IKEA Foundation, Mulago Foundation, Kaplan foundation	
Convenings / visibility	M		
Research & pipeline development	M		

Key 2026 Priorities:

1. Develop Assets needed for Core funding discussions
2. Shift from grant-led TA to blended finance and project preparation - team and org structure to reflect this
3. Expand core institutional partnerships
4. Launch AfCEN Investor Roundtable (Q2 2026) — convening financiers and development partners for multi-year alignment

Next steps

Action / Initiative	Deadline	Lead	Status / Notes
Submit to CCAC (Tanzania Clean Cooking)	Nov–Dec 2025	Nduta + Theme Lead	Active
Apply to Climate Finance Lab (PPF)	9 Nov 2025	Nduta + Theme Lead	Active
Apply to AU-EU LEAP-SE (Corridor Ecosystems)	Feb 2026	Nduta + Theme Lead	Prep stage
Develop Bilateral Funding engagement plans: asks, type of funding	Nov 2025	Soraya/Olivia/Evans	Prep stage
Launch funder data room & AI tracking tool	Dec 2025	Bayes / Soraya	Development
Prepare 2026 blended finance strategy and Medium term fundraising Strategy	Feb 2026	Soraya / Olivia + Theme Leads	Planning
Prepare assets for Bilateral Core Fundraising; shortlist, budget etc	Dec 2025	Soraya / Olivia	Prep stage