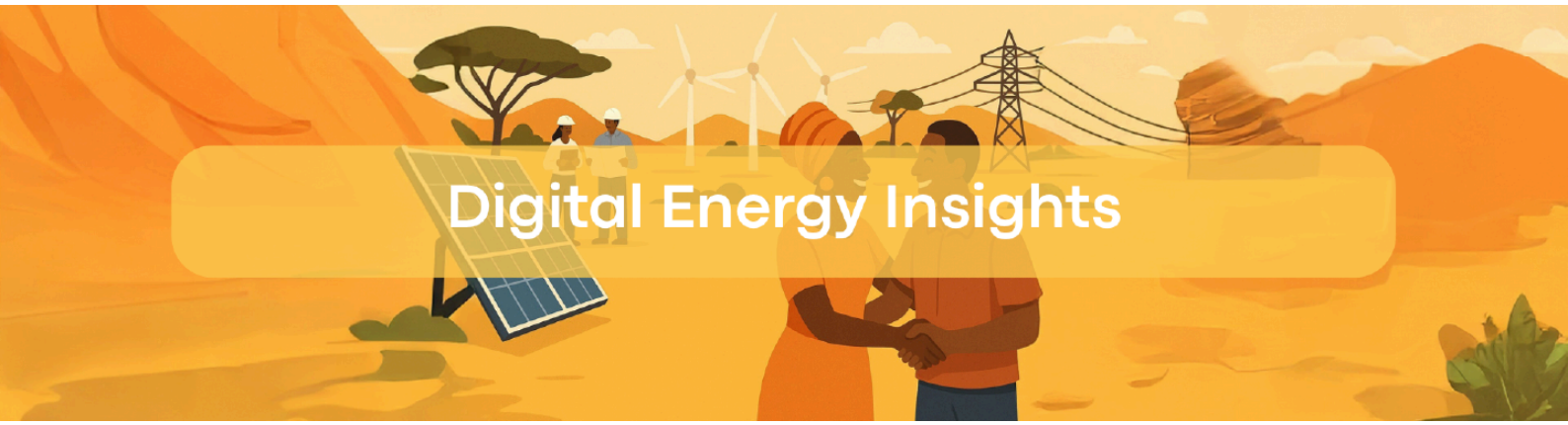

Battery Event – Summary

How can battery storage accelerate the energy transition in Africa?

AFD's hybrid event "Battery Energy Storage: a Catalyst for Sub-Saharan Africa's Energy Transition" convened leading experts, practitioners, and partners to explore how advanced storage systems can accelerate clean-energy access across the continent. Held in Paris and streamed online, the session examined the emerging role of stationary battery storage in energy access through 2 study presentations and a roundtable of key actors across the energy access sector.

🎤 Opening

The event was opened by **Pauline Larat**, Deputy Head of Energy Unit, followed by an overview of the Digital Energy Program and community by **Sophie Biot, Onepoint**.

🟦 1st Study Presentation — SETEC Storage Study for Mini-grids

Marie Gaultier presented the SETEC Storage Study for Mini-grids. She explained the approach and methodology and highlighted findings including importance of storage to mini-grids in SSA, the market, key technologies and business models.

Liam Murphy, Vittoria Technology, presented the findings on key considerations and obstacles to end of life management and building a circular battery economy in the sector. He also presented case studies from the Digital Energy Laureates work (Vittoria Technology & SLS Energy).

For the Q&A the panel was joined by **Quentin Boulanger, SETEC**. The questions focused on:

- how to address financial sustainability of battery expansions and replacement on mini-grids
- developing the industrial capacity for 2nd life batteries in SSA
- control architecture for "under grid" mini-grids

- how mini-grid payment systems serve a customer base that is often lacking in financial resources

⭐ Takeaway

Innovative technologies, business models, AI integration, and sustainable practices like battery leasing and recycling are critical to accelerating Africa's energy transition through efficient and scalable battery storage solutions.

🟧 2nd Study — AFD–Engie Impact Study

Laurence Charlier, Director of Energy at Safege Energy, SUEZ Consulting

The AFD-Engie Impact study focuses on strategic analysis and opportunities for electricity storage in Africa, aiming to support the energy transition. The study analyzed storage needs across Africa's five power pools. Identify key aspects of storage need, financing and technologies.

⭐ Takeaway

The study provides a comprehensive framework for identifying, structuring, and funding battery storage projects in Africa, emphasizing the importance of tailored solutions, regulatory clarity, and institutional support to drive the energy transition.

💬 Round Table

The 3rd session was a round table of actors in energy access focused on their on-the-ground experience with storage projects and integration into their work. The round table was moderated by **Mehdi Benaissa, AFD** and included **ARESS Group, Elum Energy & Eiffage Énergie Systèmes**.

The round table covered storage considerations from multiple perspectives including large-scale energy projects management, software and control architecture at the heart of managing battery storage, and how mini-grids approach the opportunities and challenges that storage integration presents.

🔚 Closing

The event closed with remarks by **Cyril Renault, AFD** and **Sophie Biot, Onepoint**.

The event offered a rich platform for knowledge exchange and practical insights on how battery storage can underpin a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable energy transition in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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