

The Cup Runneth Over

Africa is currently subject to a tidal wave of reports and media coverage triggered by the World Cup. This is good news. Several management consulting firms have just issued reports on Africa. Their titles speak for themselves, for example [‘The African Challengers’](#) and [‘Fulfilling The Promise’](#). Both point to new business opportunities, the growing African market and significance of its land, oil and other resources. “For many companies, this is a future worth investing in”. Britain’s leading international affairs body, Chatham House, has just released [‘Our Common Strategic Interests: Africa’s Role in the post G8 World’](#). This points to the more strategic role being played by African countries on the global stage, and the need for a shift in public and policy perceptions towards Africa in Britain and other industrialized countries if they are not to lose influence and trade advantages to emerging powers. The WEF Africa meeting, and the annual meeting of the AfDB, emphasized the positive changes afoot after a difficult year.

Is everyone succumbing to World Cup giddiness, or is Africa really on the verge of major transformation? Enthusiasm about the future and their prospects may be entirely lost on the several hundred million Africans who live in insecurity, hungry, jobless, in a deteriorating natural environment, without access to basic services and opportunities.

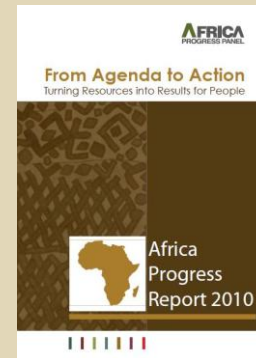
Much now depends upon how Africa plays its cards, how resources are exploited, and the deals it cuts with investors, both governments and the private sector. Will Africa’s assets be leveraged to attract investment in public goods and services that benefit everyone, or just a few?

[As Kofi Annan put it at the launch of the Africa Progress Report](#), “Africa is rich, and its stock is rising. But too many Africans remain poor and face grave problems ... only leadership and governance can close the gap between a rich continent and poor people”.

The immediate priority is an African team winning the World Cup. Then the focus should be on this.

Africa Progress Report 2010

The APR report, which was launched in Johannesburg last week, by Kofi Annan, Peter Eigen, Linah Mohohlo and Olusegun Obasanjo analyses the continent’s progress over the last five years and issues key recommendations to African leaders and its international partners. The full report and executive summary is published in English and French. The report is available for download on our website at www.africaprogresspanel.org; if you have any questions, please write to: info@aficaprogresspanel.org



[From Agenda to Action: Turning Resources into Results for People](#)



[Two Continents](#) is a viral video produced by the APP Secretariat to draw visitors to the APP website ahead of the launch of the Report.

G20 Update

FRANCE

- [French President Nicolas Sarkozy supports the creation of a permanent seat for Africa at the UN Security Council](#)

GERMANY

- [German Development Minister Dirk Niebel meets with members of the Africa Progress Panel](#) to address questions of good governance and fighting corruption.

UK

- Queen reiterates the [UK governments commitment that 0.7% of gross national income will be spent in ODA every year from 2013](#)

Media Coverage Overview

PRINT HIGHLIGHTS

In total **42 opinion pieces** around the launch of the report were published in outlets in the UK, France, Portugal, India, Korea, Brazil and in key African media markets, including South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Niger and Cameroon.

The report was covered in [The Times](#) and in an editorial in the [Financial Times](#) in the UK. It was also referenced in [The Guardian](#) in the UK and in [Les Echos](#) in France.

[African Business](#) published a seven-page report on the APR, reproducing a number of the Report’s graphics.

BROADCAST HIGHLIGHTS

Kofi Annan and Peter Eigen were interviewed for [CNN’s ‘Marketplace Africa’](#).

An interview with President Obasanjo was broadcast on [BBC World Service Radio](#) and the [BBC Africa Service Radio](#) on the day of the launch. A news bulletin report on the APR also ran on BBC World Service Radio.

Michel Camdessus was interviewed by Christophe Boisbouvier for [Radio France Internationale](#), for the programme ‘L’invité Afrique’.

ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

[Online coverage of the report](#) was secured in websites across the world, including in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Rwanda, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, USA, UK, Brazil, China, France, Canada, Taiwan, Nepal, India and South Korea.

[AllAfrica.com](#) ran 7 stories on the launch of the report, and featured the Report on one of its ‘topic focus’ pages on 25 May. AllAfrica.com is the largest electronic distributor of African news and information worldwide, with 12 million page views per month and content agreements with over 130 African news organisations.

[BBC News Online](#) published an article on the launch of the APR and ONE Reports. The site records around 14 million unique users a week.

[The Huffington Post](#) in the USA, ranked the most powerful blog in the world by The Observer, published the op-ed by Kofi Annan.

The publication of Mr Annan’s op-ed on [Afrik.com](#), the biggest Francophone online news website about Africa.

[Youghil.com](#), a francophone news website devoted to international development, published an article of the APR. The story was the top story of the front page for two days.

“ There is no lack of resources, no deficiency of knowledge and no shortage of plans. Africa’s progress rests above all else on the mobilisation of political will, both on the continent and internationally. ”

Kofi Annan, launch of the Africa Progress Report

News

[Malawi's president pardons a gay couple sentenced to 14 years in prison after getting engaged](#) in a case which triggered international criticism, but insists that homosexuality will remain illegal in Malawi. [International actors urge an end to "the persecution and criminalization" of sexual orientation and gender identity.](#)

[President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's re-election bid draws mixed reactions.](#) Despite a remarkable record, [she faces tough challenges to her authority.](#) She will also face former football star George Weah, whom she narrowly defeated in the 2005 race, and who appeals to the poor, many of whom feel left out of the recovery.

Top prosecutor of the Hague announces that the [ICC will prosecute politicians who rig elections and those who use the power of incumbency to fraudulently stay in power.](#) Dictators in Africa are warned to respect human rights or face the wrath of the international community.

While most of Gabon’s population still lives in poverty, [President Ali Bongo spent €100m on a townhouse in Paris](#) with claims that the new mansion will serve to reduce the hotel costs for him and his official delegates.

[Chatham House \(UK\): Investment in Africa - All to Play For](#) – Tom Cargill presents the findings of a new Chatham House report and the increase in private sector investment in Africa.

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

In his opening statement at the 2010 AfDB Annual meeting, [Donald Kaberuka says, "the timing is right, to build strong world class African institutions – at a time when Africa is repositioning, building internal markets, and integrating more closely within the global community."](#)

AU

[AU Panel of the Wise calls for greater role for women in peace and security initiatives in Africa](#)

UN

New [UNCTAD report focuses on the challenges of improving agricultural performance in Africa](#) and the role of technology and innovation in raising agricultural production and incomes of all farmers.

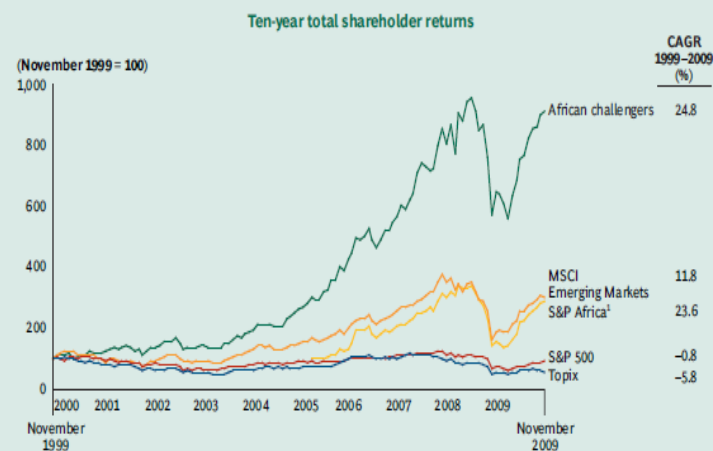
Core message of the APR 2010

Attempting to capture and assess Africa’s progress in one slim report is an ambitious undertaking. Generalizations need to be treated with great caution. The variety of the continent’s economic and political circumstances defies blanket judgements or prescriptions. Yet, several themes emerge from a review of Africa’s progress over the last five years, and from anticipation of what the future holds.

The key theme running through this year’s Africa Progress Report is that the continent’s stock is rising and that its strategic importance is growing as the world recognizes the economic value of its human and natural resources. The threats that Africa faces are also more apparent, including its vulnerability to climate change, epidemics, organised crime, the volatility of fuel and food prices, and financial and economic shocks.

Our report argues that the ingredients for managing both emerging risks and opportunities for the benefits of all Africans are neither a mystery nor out of hand. Over the last decade, the continent’s leaders and their partners have put in place many sensible, often visionary, agendas, plans and blueprints for action – whether relating to governance, regional integration, or investment in agriculture, health and education. There also is no lack of potential funds given the continent’s vast natural and human resources and the ongoing, often illicit, outflow of wealth. It is now up to Africa’s leaders to put the political leadership, accountability systems and management capacities in place to turn all this into results for the continent’s people.

African Challengers Have Outperformed Both Developed and Emerging Market Indexes



Source: [BCG Group report](#)

Opinions

[Mmegi Online \(Botswana\): This is the year for Africa](#)
African leaders need to stand out as “champions of development,” says Kofi Annan.

[Globe and Mail \(Canada\): Africa will find its own solutions, but we all need to help](#) – Tony Blair writes that as much as it is up to Africans to find solutions to their own problems, it is also the rest of the world’s obligation to help.

[Daily News \(South Africa\): Success stories show that Africa is on the right track](#) – In a statement to mark Africa Day, Archbishop Ndungane writes that success stories show Africa is on the right track and that it can “celebrate its achievements, people and ability to change its future for the better.”

[Scotsman \(UK\): Africa must wake up faster to the role women can play](#) – Barriers preventing women from playing their full role need to be lifted for Africa to reach growth rates needed to meet the UN MDGs, says Graça Machel.

[The New York Times \(USA\): Justice vs Impunity](#)– In an article for the IHT, Kofi Annan calls for an end to impunity.

[Les Echos \(France\): Les Chinois ont compris le potentiel de l'Afrique](#) – Donor countries have considerably reduced aid given to the South because of the global financial crisis. Michel Camdessus calls on the North to not turn away from Africa especially as economic growth is forecasted to approach 7% annually.

[The Huffington Post - Development Aid Is Working](#)
Mark Suzman looks at progress on the 10th anniversary of the MDGs and calls on donor countries to not cut down on their support.

Calendar

- 4-5 June** G20 Finance Ministers Meeting, Busan, Republic of Korea
- 7-9 June** [Women Deliver Summit](#): Washington D.C, USA
- 8 June** AU-EC College-to-College Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 10-11 June** Opening Ceremony World Cup: Johannesburg, South Africa
- 11 June** 10th International Economic Forum on Africa: Paris, France
- 21-22 June** CBC Africa Business Forum: London, UK

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