

Madagascar: How to futureproof energy projects in face of political uncertainty

 By [Nicci Botha](#)

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Madagascar has a new energy policy with the ambitious plan of providing universal access and energy security to its citizens by 2030. But this plan is not without its challenges.



Madagascar's indigenous forests are being stripped to meet energy needs. Photo: Greentumble

Currently, 92% of the Malagasy population live below the poverty line, and only 15% of the population has access to electricity.

In addition, there are infrastructural problems, the country had only 570MW of mainly thermal (60%) and hydroelectric (40%) installed production capacity, of which only 60% is truly available owing to poor maintenance of power plants.

All of which undermine the country's socioeconomic development. Martin Randrianoely, secretary general in Madagascar's Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons told Energy Week: South Africa that Madagascar is looking to implement public private partnerships to develop the country's energy sector. However, there is an issue in securing financing. The challenge is the cycles of violence linked to the political situation that plague the country at regular intervals. "The consequence is that international institutions have stopped financing projects," he said.

"The new policy provides a legal framework and financing structure to preserve the continuity of projects when there is a change in government," Randrianoely said.

Gas sector

Madagascar's liquefied natural gas production doubled between 2010-2017, from 7,022 to 13,406tcf. However, there is no strategy for gas in the national policy, Randrianoely said. There is only one operator, Vitogaz, but more than one distributor (Vitogaz, Galana, Total and Mocoh).

“Gas is mostly used for energy and mining, which makes up 30% of the national market. Most of the energy production in Madagascar comes from wood, the collection of which is largely illegal and has leads to deforestation with its relating climate change issues. Therefore gas is a good alternative for the country’s energy needs,” he said.

ABOUT NICCI BOTHA

Nicci Botha has been wordsmithing for more than 20 years, covering just about every subject under the sun and then some. She's strung together words on sustainable development, maritime matters, mining, marketing, medical, lifestyle... and that elixir of life - chocolate. Nicci has worked for local and international media houses including Primedia, Caxton, Lloyd's and Reuters. Her new passion is digital media.

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