



Opening Thoughts

Welcome to the year-end edition of the ASD newsletter. As El Nino brings needed rains to our region, we hope that, wherever you may be, you are enjoying the holiday season and using the break to relax and revitalize.

In 2015, ASD celebrated its 5th birthday, grew to over 15 staff and took over the entire top floor of Life Ministries Building. Please come see us!

With Ariya Capital, we were among 13 of 900 applicants selected to receive a prestigious Powering Agriculture award. Our initiative is installing and leasing embedded renewable power systems for flower farms in East Africa. You will hear much more about this in the New Year.

As we close the year, ASD salutes global and East African positive achievements in renewable energy. Hats off to those companies, NGO's, Governments and individuals that have worked hard to build the renewable energy sector and to increase energy access in this region!

As we did last year, we also make a list of 2016 New Years Resolutions for East Africa. We commit to cooperating with our partners and communities to continue the important work of greening East Africa.

We wish you and your families the best for a safe holiday season and a green and prosperous new year.

**Happy Holidays
from all of us at ASD!**



10 Positive Results from 2015

Some **major achievements** in 2015! Onger to all those involved in making things happen.

1. International agreement! 195 countries at COP Paris agreed to do something about climate change. The meeting was constructive and issue-based. Although not perfect, there was an agreement and it will be good for renewables.

2. Commitment! Ethiopia was one of only 5 countries that formally committed to emissions targets below the 2°C threshold. In 2015, it became Africa's 2nd largest power producer when the 1,870 MW Gibe III Dam started generation. [Climate action tracker](#)

3. Renewable spending in LDC's. Emerging markets outspent rich countries on renewables the first time ever. [Bloomberg](#)

4. PV for rural African households! Off grid solar illuminates the lives of 35m rural Africans. We have come far in 30 years of off-grid PV! [GOGLA report](#)

5. PV on Grid in Kenya! The largest PV carport in Africa was opened in Nairobi. **858 kWp!** There is much more on the way. [PV TECH](#)

6. Cooperation! National Governments and donors are working together to build out energy access and renewable energy and we are learning fast. [UK's Energy Africa and the US's Power Africa Initiative.](#)

7. Investment in Off-Grid Solar. Over \$100M in investment came to energy access companies in East Africa. [M-Kopa](#) passes the 250,000 customer threshold. [Off-Grid Electric](#) attracts \$45M finance. This more than doubles international investment in previous years.

8. Investment in Mini-Grids. Mini-grids are attracting private investors in Kenya. Many agencies are working to develop this sector. [ESI-Africa reports.](#)

9. Ambition. [WWF Uganda](#) launches 100% Renewable Energy report (with ASD help). Discussion of 100% renewable energy is no longer science fiction in Africa.

10. Anniversary. ASD has its **5th birthday!!!** We thank all that have participated in this success.

2016 Renewable Resolutions

As was the case last year, we'd like to see stronger regional support for renewables and green decentralized solutions. Here are some of the things ASD will be pushing for in 2016:

1. **Global.** Rapid implementation of the Paris climate agreements in Africa. Actions speak louder than words. The clock is ticking.
2. **East Africa region.** Continued development of consistent policy frameworks for decentralized energy and embedded renewables.
3. **East Africa region.** Continued international investment in off-grid and mini-grid companies that will help rural populations have better access to energy.
4. **Kenya:** We hope to finally see the 300MW Turkana wind project commissioned.
5. **Rwanda:** Build upon its 8.5MW PV success by adding hydro, methane gas and more solar power production.
6. **Uganda:** We hope to see commissioning of GETFIT hydro and PV projects.
7. **Tanzania.** We hope Magufuli can work his magic to push for action in the renewable energy sector.



About this newsletter

RE TRENDS EAST AFRICA is a quarterly newsletter produced by ASD in a deliberate move to share its knowledge and expertise of the East African region that spans over 25 years. We cover emerging innovations and technologies and showcase energy trends in the region to paint a picture of the sector and the direction it is taking. At ASD we provide a range of technical, consultancy and capacity building assistance in the renewable energy sector with a focus on commercial and rural energy solutions.

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