



Financing the Future of Food Markets along the Lobito Corridor

2026 Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum - Special Event

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Green Room 16:00-17:30

Transportation corridors in Africa

Corridors must go beyond transport infrastructure to uplift fragmented agrifood systems

WHY CORRIDORS MATTER



New partnerships between Africa and the world, with growing private sector participation



Integrated, transformative investment that drives structural change



Instrumental to making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) work

WHAT HOLDS THEM BACK



Degraded infrastructure, border delays and poor connectivity



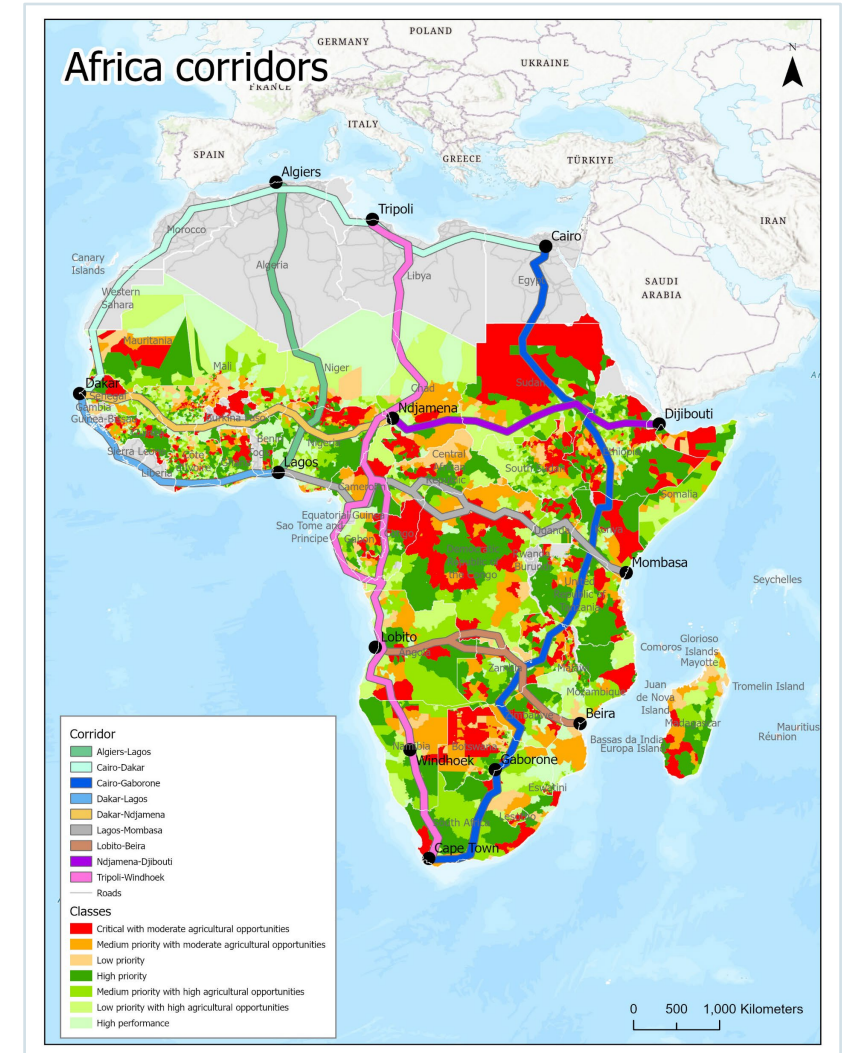
Some of the world's highest transport and logistics costs



Weak supporting infrastructure and services, incl. digital



Fragmented agrifood systems and difficult market access



Overcoming challenges along the Lobito corridor

Removing barriers makes the corridor a driver of inclusive growth

1 Cross-border infrastructure

Different legal frameworks, compensation mechanisms and environmental standards

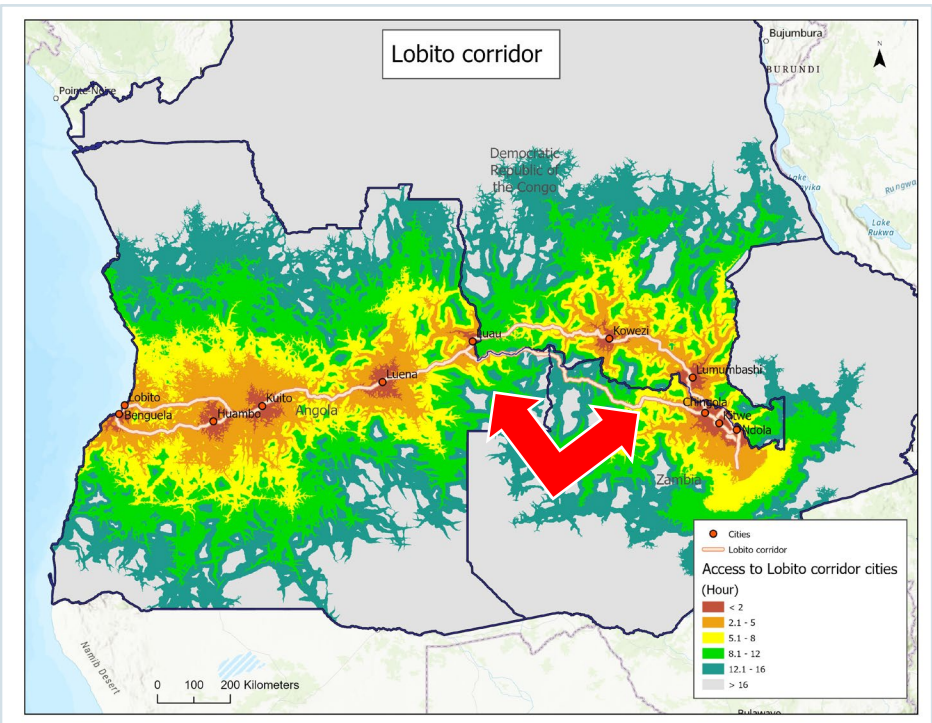
2 Low road density

Lowest road density and rural accessibility of Africa's strategic corridors (JRC, 2025)

3 Inefficient customs procedures

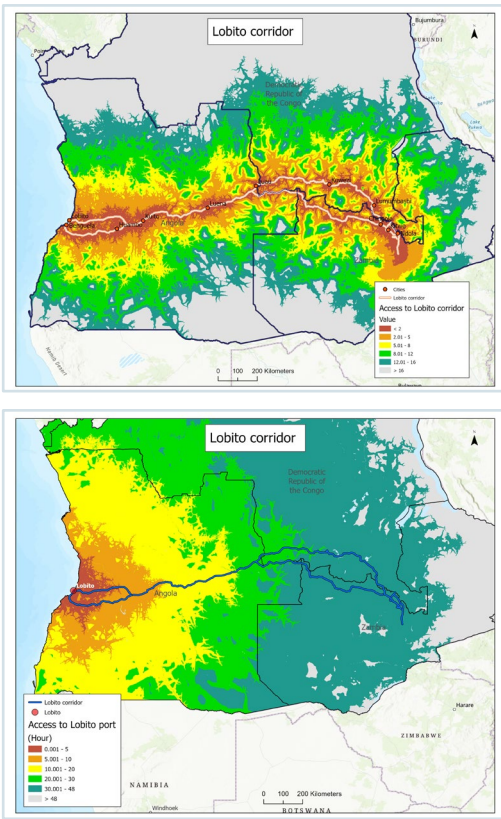
Bottlenecks that slow down trade flows

WITH BARRIERS



Red arrow marks a major choke point

WITHOUT BARRIERS



Investment priorities linked to the corridor

HiH-supported countries prioritize smallholder value chains for value addition and market access

\$1.8 bn

total investment, 8 value chains

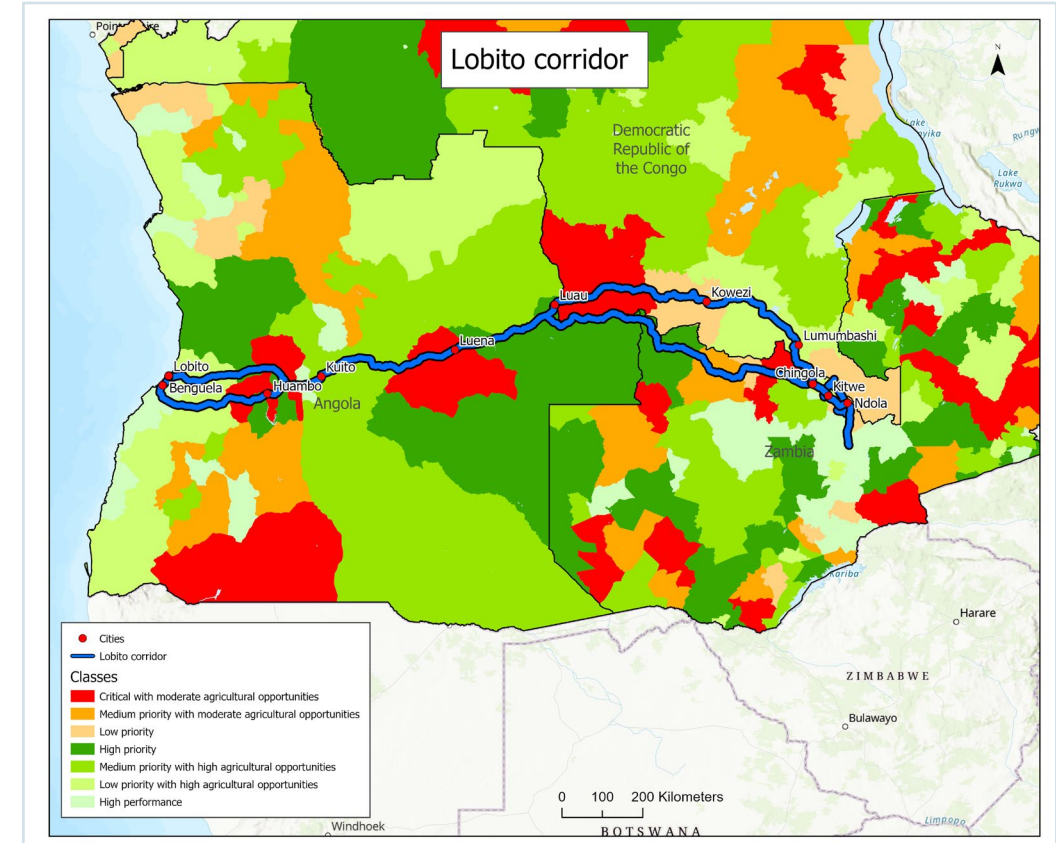
201,000

direct beneficiaries

13–31%

internal rate of return

Country	Value chain	Investment (\$M)	IRR (%)	Beneficiaries ('000)	CO ₂ eq ('000 t)
Angola	Coffee	380	27	40	-1121
	Avocado	400	20	8	-3587
	Soybeans	287	20	33	169
DRC	Maize	185	13	10	-49.8*
	Aquaculture	153	20	2	12.4*
	Poultry	329	21	24	-0.03*
Zambia	Beans	29	28	22	421.2
	Soybeans	48	31	62	1,333



Sources: FAO-HiH supported national investment programmes (Angola, DRC, Zambia); map: FAO-HiH GIS analysis team

* Emissions per year

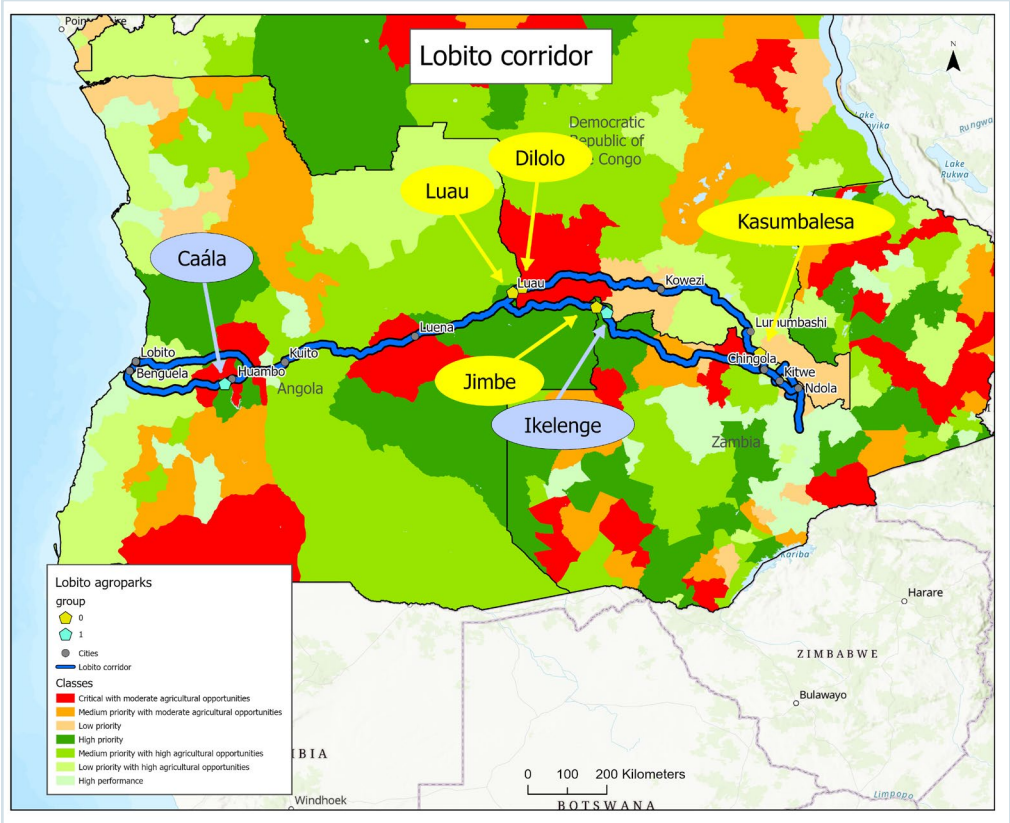
Agrologistic hubs to create and add value

Strengthen food security and nutrition, reduce food loss and waste, build climate resilience and improve regional trade

Connecting supply with demand – southern DRC and beyond

-  Cross-border logistics centres
-  Logistics cooperation leveraging existing hub infrastructure
-  Regional digital ecosystem and policy coordination

Country	Intervention	Cost (\$M)
Angola	Hub focusing on avocado	41
DRC	Mechanization, storage and processing centres (maize)	49
Zambia	Aggregation, storage and post-harvest centres (beans)	19
Total		109



 Existing hub  New hub

Trade facilitation and regional integration

Regional policy coordination to attract investment, boost competitiveness and link DRC and Zambia to export markets and the sea



Barriers

- Weak formal trade and high informal trade between countries
- Differing tariff agreements between the countries
- Little trade regulation and high non-tariff barriers
- Inefficient customs procedures



Interventions

- Comprehensive framework to harmonize tariffs, trade agreements and investment policies
- Policy alignment with SADC, COMESA and the AfCFTA
- Harmonized trade documentation
- Internationally accepted standards
- Trade facilitation tools for transit and border management
- Trade and business facilitation one-stop shop
- Harmonized customs policies and digital customs clearance

NET BENEFIT

\$18M

per year

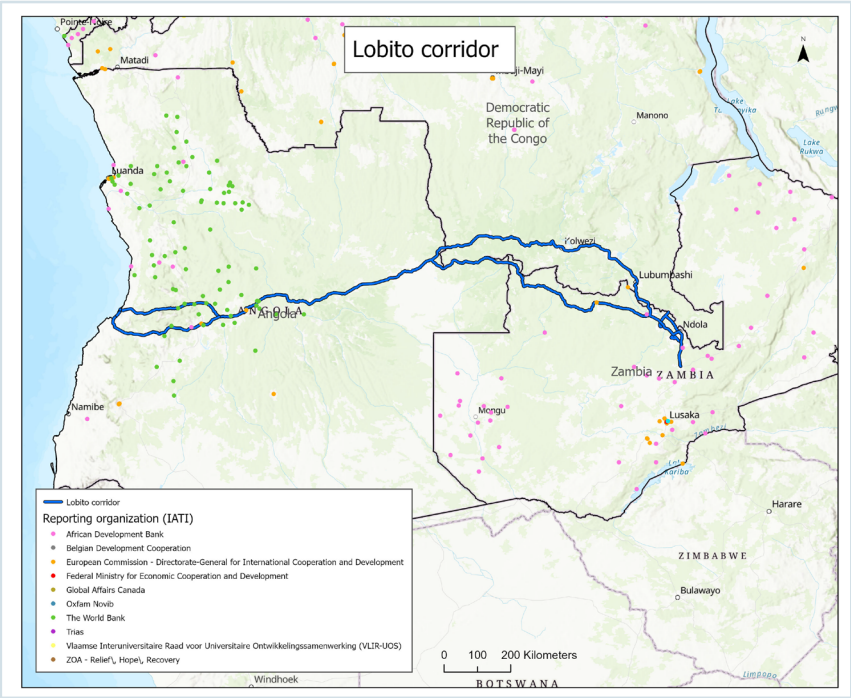
Investment to remove barriers

Country	\$M	IRR (%)
Angola	14	33
DRC	16	35
Zambia	47	31
Total	72	33

Coordinating partner efforts in the corridor

Development partners and DFIs are converging on Lobito, alongside FAO Hand-in-Hand support to countries and SADC

Partner	Focus	Commitment
EU Global Gateway	Railway development	€2 bn
EU – AGRINVEST	Grant for agrologistics, markets, anchor business models and SME finance (designed by FAO/CFI)	~€50M
Italy	Corridor, logistics and agriculture infrastructure	>€320M
Belgium	Lobito Atlantic Railway consortium – local economic development	~€140M
France	Youth and infrastructure	>€35M
Netherlands	Logistic platforms and avocado value chain	>€8M
DFC & DBSA	Infrastructure development and rehabilitation	>US\$700M
AFC & AfDB	Railway expansion	>US\$500M
FCDO	Trade facilitation and governance	£48M



Partner projects along the corridor (IATI)

ALSO COORDINATING

FAO Hand-in-Hand

Countries and SADC

AUDA-ECDPM

Food corridor initiatives

World Bank

Lobito Corridor Master Plan

Private sector and incentives to invest

Private investors are already active, and all three countries offer incentives for agro-industrial investment

PRIVATE SECTOR ALREADY ACTIVE



Carrinho Group

Agro-processing, logistics and farmer integration



Good Nature Agro

Supply and processing of legumes, beans and groundnuts



Tetra Pak

Dairy and legume packaging



Equity BCDC

Logistics, energy and local processing

INCENTIVES TO INVEST

Angola

Agro-industrial zones with fiscal incentives, rural public investment and land availability

DRC

Agro-industrial parks with duty and tax exemptions on imports, exports, water and electricity

Zambia

1 million ha ready for investment, 100% profit repatriation and private sector-led policies

Thank you