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POSITION PAPER

The Case for Africa Mineral Intelligence

****Why Africa's mineral investment decisions are made on inadequate information – and what a purpose-built intelligence platform changes.****

Afrimintel Africa Mineral Intelligence · April 2026

The problem in three signals

****Significantly under-explored**** – Africa's geophysical survey coverage and geological data systems trail Australia's and Canada's substantially, with fragmented data, uneven coverage, and limited transparency continuing to constrain investment (World Bank, **Mineral Resources of Africa**, October 2025; Africa Finance Corporation, **Compendium of Africa's Strategic Minerals**, February 2026).

****Decades behind**** – the World Bank's October 2025 assessment notes that Africa's competitive advantage in mineral exploration lies in high geological potential and relatively lower discovery costs, but emphasises that strengthening geoscientific data systems is essential to harness modern technology. The lag versus Australian and Canadian coverage standards is structural and measured in decades.

****\$8.6 trillion**** – value of Africa's undeveloped mine-site mineral endowment, per the Africa Finance Corporation's **Compendium of Africa's Strategic Minerals** (February 2026). Total African mine-site mineral value estimated at \$29.5 trillion, approximately 20% of global mineral wealth.

Africa holds a significant share of the world's critical mineral reserves – the raw material base for electric vehicles, grid-scale batteries, and the energy transition. The demand for these minerals is structural and growing. The ability to find, evaluate, and invest in them has not kept pace.

The problem is not geological. Africa's mineral endowment is not in question. The problem is ****informational****. Professionals making consequential decisions about African mineral exploration and investment – DFI investment officers, exploration geologists, government ministries, junior company executives – are making those decisions on fragmented, coverage-biased, and frequently outdated information.

The gap is structural. African geophysical data coverage trails Australian and Canadian benchmarks by roughly two decades, and prospectivity maps across much of

the continent remain biased toward where historical data was collected rather than where the underlying geology is most favourable. ****The deposits that remain undiscovered are disproportionately in the areas the maps make look empty.****

The information gap is not uniform – it is strategic

The data gap is not random. It is systematic and it is highest precisely where the mineral potential is greatest. The Kalahari Platform – Africa's fastest-emerging copper province, anchored by Botswana – has materially better geophysical survey coverage than the Saharan Metacraton, a largely unexplored mineral system covering parts of Niger, Chad, Libya, and Algeria. Survey coverage gaps in the Saharan Metacraton are amongst the most significant on the continent.

This creates a perverse situation: ****the investment decisions that matter most are the ones made with the least information.**** A DFI analyst evaluating a Kalahari copper project in Botswana can draw on T3 Motheo drilling results, Sandfire's JORC technical filings, and Fraser Institute investment climate data. A geologist evaluating a Saharan Metacraton target in Niger has almost nothing. The consequence is systematic underinvestment in underexplored provinces – not because the mineral potential is lower, but because the information required to make a decision does not exist in an accessible, synthesised form.

Why this category did not exist before

Carbon credit intelligence did not exist as a professional category before Sylvera and BeZero Carbon created it. The data existed – Verra registries, Gold Standard databases, satellite biomass estimates. What did not exist was a platform that synthesised that data into decision-grade intelligence for institutional users, maintained independence from the entities being rated, and published its methodology openly.

Africa Mineral Intelligence is in the same position in 2026 that carbon credit intelligence was in 2018. The underlying data exists – Fraser Institute Annual Survey, USGS mineral databases, national geological surveys, public NI 43-101 and JORC filings, AfDB project databases.

What does not exist is a platform that:

- Synthesises this data across all 54 African countries and the geological provinces that transcend their borders
- Scores provinces using a documented, auditable, and consistently applied methodology
- Makes that intelligence accessible to five distinct professional user groups through role-specific decision tools
- Maintains independence from the commercial interests of the operators, governments, and investors whose data appears on the platform

****Afrimintel is that platform.****

What changes when the intelligence infrastructure exists

User	Decision without Afrimintel	Decision with Afrimintel
DFI Investment Officer	Reviews project teaser with no comparables. Cannot benchmark the ask against similar deals. Cannot quickly assess province-level risk.	Runs Deal Evaluator: comparable transactions in under 60 seconds. Province scores, country risk, and DFI instrument comparables available on demand.
Exploration Geologist	Spends 2–3 days assembling open-source data on a new province. No synthesis layer. Geophysical guide from textbooks not calibrated to African conditions.	Province intelligence, 18 intelligence-grade deposit dossiers with primary-source citations, sub-province corridors, and geophysical guide with field corrections – accessible in minutes.
Government Ministry	Prepares investor pitch from memory and country facts. No benchmark data on what competing jurisdictions offer. No structured DFI conversation pathway.	Country Pitch Builder: province scores, fiscal terms comparison, DFI instrument pipeline, EITI disclosure status – all in one export-ready brief.
Junior CEO	Raises capital without comparable transaction benchmarks. Exchange selection is guesswork. No structured understanding of which DFIs actually finance this stage.	Capital Raise Prep: comparable deals in the province, exchange guide with listing rules, DFI pipeline, and investor contact register.

Table 1. The decision quality differential across Afrimintel's five user groups.

The partnership architecture

Afrimintel is designed as an open intelligence platform – not a closed database. Data partners contribute to Afrimintel and receive value in return. The model is borrowed from the most successful intelligence platforms in adjacent domains.

****The British Geological Survey's Africa Programme**** has produced geological surveys, mineral assessments, and country reports across 40 African nations. That data, currently accessible only to those who know where to look, belongs on a platform that makes it decision-grade for the professionals who need it. BGS benefits from distribution and impact visibility. Afrimintel benefits from verified, primary-source data at continental scale.

****The Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies**** is the world's leading measure of investment attractiveness for mining jurisdictions. Their data is already the backbone of Afrimintel's IC scores. Formal citation rights and data exchange formalise what is already a dependency.

****The African Development Bank**** finances mineral projects across the continent. Their project pipeline data, currently distributed across sector reports, belongs

in a platform that DFI analysts access every day. AfDB benefits from intelligence that makes their borrower due diligence more efficient. Afrimintel benefits from live deal flow data at institutional quality.

This is not data licensing. It is a network. Each partner makes Afrimintel better. Afrimintel makes each partner's data more useful. The platform becomes harder to replicate not because of proprietary code but because of the relationships it embeds.

The Afrimintel commitment

Afrimintel publishes its full scoring methodology. Every province score is traceable to named, dated primary sources. Every data point carries a verification tag – ****VERIFIED****, ****INFERRED****, ****ESTIMATED****, or ****UNKNOWN****. The independence policy is permanent and public: no commercial relationship influences scores, editorial content, or verification decisions.

The platform is in paid beta. The data is April 2026. The methodology will evolve as new primary data becomes available. But the standard it is built to – transparent, auditable, independent, professional-grade – does not change.

Africa Mineral Intelligence is a new category. The professionals who need it have been working without it for decades. Afrimintel is the first platform built specifically to serve them.

****Afrimintel Africa Mineral Intelligence · April 2026 · afrimintel.com****

****Editorial responsibility: Nikesh Patel, Honorary Consul of Rwanda in Mauritius****

****Beta access: nikesh@afrimintel.com****

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