



SAF - A DECARBONIZATION PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

*How African Airlines Can Collaborate to Ensure a
Fair and Level Playing Field in the Global SAF
Transition*

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*SAF will drive aviation decarbonization globally
— and Africa can be a major player.*

SAF expected to contribute **65%** of emissions reductions needed for **Net Zero by 2050 (IATA)**

Africa's **feedstock advantage:** agricultural residues, non-edible oils, algae

Land potential: vast arable and marginal lands suitable for sustainable feedstock cultivation

Challenge: high costs, limited production capacity, and infrastructure gaps



Continental Strategy for SAF/LCAF and Aviation Cleaner Energies

Adopted: AU Executive Council & Heads of State
Summit – 18-20 February 2025

Outcome:

- ✓ Unifies continental SAF/LCAF efforts
- ✓ Lays the groundwork for **policy harmonization**
- ✓ Promotes a **coordinated African approach** to SAF/LCAF

Next Step:

→ Establishment of a **Continental Technical Working Group (TWG)** with workstreams on SAF development and deployment by 2030.





African Airline Initiatives



Early Pioneers:

- ✈ *South African Airways* – first passenger SAF flight (2016)
- ✈ *Ethiopian Airlines & Kenya Airways* – SAF demonstration flights
- ✈ *Royal Air Maroc* – 40% SAF blend (since 2023)

Impact:

- Raised awareness across the ecosystem
- Highlighted barriers: high cost, limited SAF availability, lack of incentives & infrastructure

Collaborative Action:

- ✈ Workshops by **AFRAA, AFCAC, ICAO, and IATA** to build capacity
- ✈ Drive for policy advocacy



AFRAA Call to Action on Decarbonization Pathway to Net



Goal:

Position African airlines to align with **global decarbonization frameworks** – UN SDGs, ICAO LTAG, CORSIA, Paris Agreement, IATA Net Zero Resolution.

Five Priority Pathways:

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Carbon Offsetting

Technology Innovation

Efficient Operations & Infrastructure

Human Capital Development

Monitoring:

✓ Semi-annual and year-end progress tracking through AFRAA surveys.



SAF PATHWAY ACTIVITY 1: JOINT PURCHASE INITIATIVE

AFRAA Actions:

- Included SAF in the AFRAA **Fuel Tender Programme** (Feb–Jun 2025)
- Updated RFP to include **SAF clauses**
- Pooled volume strategy → **reduced costs** and stronger negotiating power

Airline Actions:

- Formally **express interest** in joint SAF procurement
- Submit **projected SAF volume needs**
- Enter **long-term SAF off-take agreements**
- Embed SAF in **corporate sustainability strategies**



SAF PATHWAY ACTIVITY 2: CAPACITY BUILDING

AFRAA 2024–2025 Key Initiatives:

- Joint **AFRAA/ICAO/IATA Webinar** – June 2024
- **3rd SAF/LCAF Webinar** – Sept 2024
- **ACT-SAF EU-AI Project** – Sept 2024
- **AFRAA & ENVISA Workshop** – 2025
- **Monthly Industry Briefings**

Airline Action:

🎓 Invest in **specialised SAF training** for technical, operational & environmental teams.

CONCLUSION

Collaborate • Innovate • Scale

African airlines' commitment to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), guided by the *AFRAA Call to Action on Decarbonization Pathway to Net Zero*, is key to building an environmentally and economically sustainable aviation sector.

Develop a **viable SAF marketplace** by enabling feedstock availability and production scalability. Begin with **pilot models** to be scaled across African States — driving **domestic production, export potential, and cost parity**.



Leverage findings from studies highlighting **high SAF production potential** in countries such as **Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa** to strengthen regional capacity.

Tackle delays caused by **limited capital access and high risk premiums** through innovative **financing models and policy support**.

Utilise the **AFRAA SAF Taskforce and Continental Strategy TWG** to coordinate efforts, share knowledge, and align projects — ensuring a **unified African voice and strategy** in the global SAF transition.





THANK YOU