



AFRICAN  
SCHOOL OF  
REGULATION

## ASR Conference Series

# POWER POOLS IN AFRICA: RELEASING THE POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL POWER TRADE

Session 2: Market rules & transmission regulation

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# The critical importance of "correct" regulation

- **Transmission**

- Reduce **uncertainty** & avoid **questionable rules** in remuneration & cost allocation in regional markets, to reduce costs & attract investment.
- Avoid that **transmission charges** discourage trade or distort efficiency.

- **Contracts for cross-border trade**

- Contracts can hedge against price uncertainty and can increase security of supply, but they must be designed and implemented so that they **do not interfere with the efficient use of resources**.

# Transmission

# Transmission investment & unnecessary regulatory risks

# Avoid unnecessary risk in transmission remuneration

- Regulation must try to **avoid unnecessary financial risks** (*which have negative consequences on the cost of capital*) to a natural monopoly activity like transmission, subject to regulation.
  - The next slide offers a list of actions – mostly with origin in **flawed regulation** – that create unnecessary risk (*therefore perfectly avoidable*) in the remuneration of the distribution activity.

# Flawed regulation creates investment risks

These are frequent **unnecessary regulatory risks** in the remuneration method

- **Revenues that depend on transactions or volume of utilization**, instead of the actually incurred costs, or standards, or results of an auction
- **Regulatory updates of the historical rate base**, based on “replacement costs”, “market value”, or other creative methods
- **Failure in ring fencing the transmission revenue requirement** in the revenues obtained from the end customer tariffs
- **Questionable cost allocation methods** that lead to opposition to pay charges that are considered unfair
- **Frequent re-calculation of transmission charges** or changes in methodology
- Performance-based **incentives that go beyond the equipment failure**
- Uncertainty in remuneration **beyond the economic life** of the transmission asset



## Linking Up: Public-Private Partnerships in Power Transmission in Africa

**There is a well established business model for private transmission investment , although it still must be adopted in Africa.**

**Flaws in the regulation of regional markets, & transmission in particular, jeopardize private investment.**

# Best practice in transmission cost allocation in regional power trade organisations



# Regulation for regional trade must be guided by the “Single system paradigm”

## The “Single system paradigm”

Design regional regulation so that the expected outcome is as close as possible to that of a sound regulation for *a single system of regional dimension.*







# SYSTÈME D'ÉCHANGES D'ÉNERGIE ÉLECTRIQUE OUEST AFRICAIN

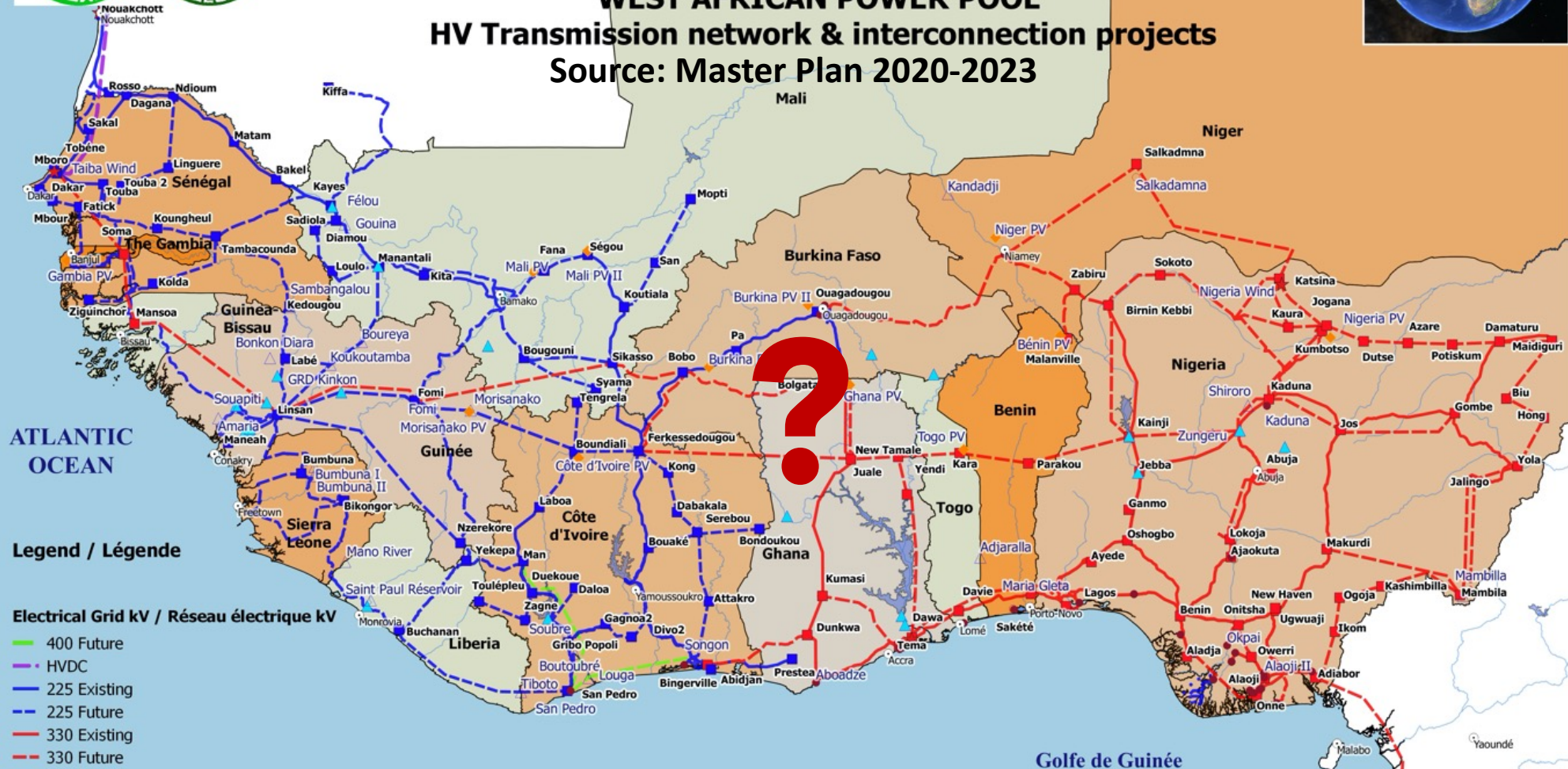
## Réseaux électriques HT & projets d'interconnexion



### WEST AFRICAN POWER POOL

#### HV Transmission network & interconnection projects

Source: Master Plan 2020-2023



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Legend / Légende

Electrical Grid kV / Réseau électrique kV

- 400 Future
- HVDC
- 225 Existing
- 225 Future
- 330 Existing
- 330 Future

Power Plants / Centrale de Production

- ▲ Hydro / Hydroélectrique
- △ Hydro / Hydroélectrique future
- ◆ Solar PV / Solaire PV future (prioritaire)
- Thermal Power / Unité Thermique
- Thermal Power / Unité Ther future
- ★ Wind / Éolien (prioritaire)

Sub-Station / Sous-Station

- 330 kV
- 225 kV

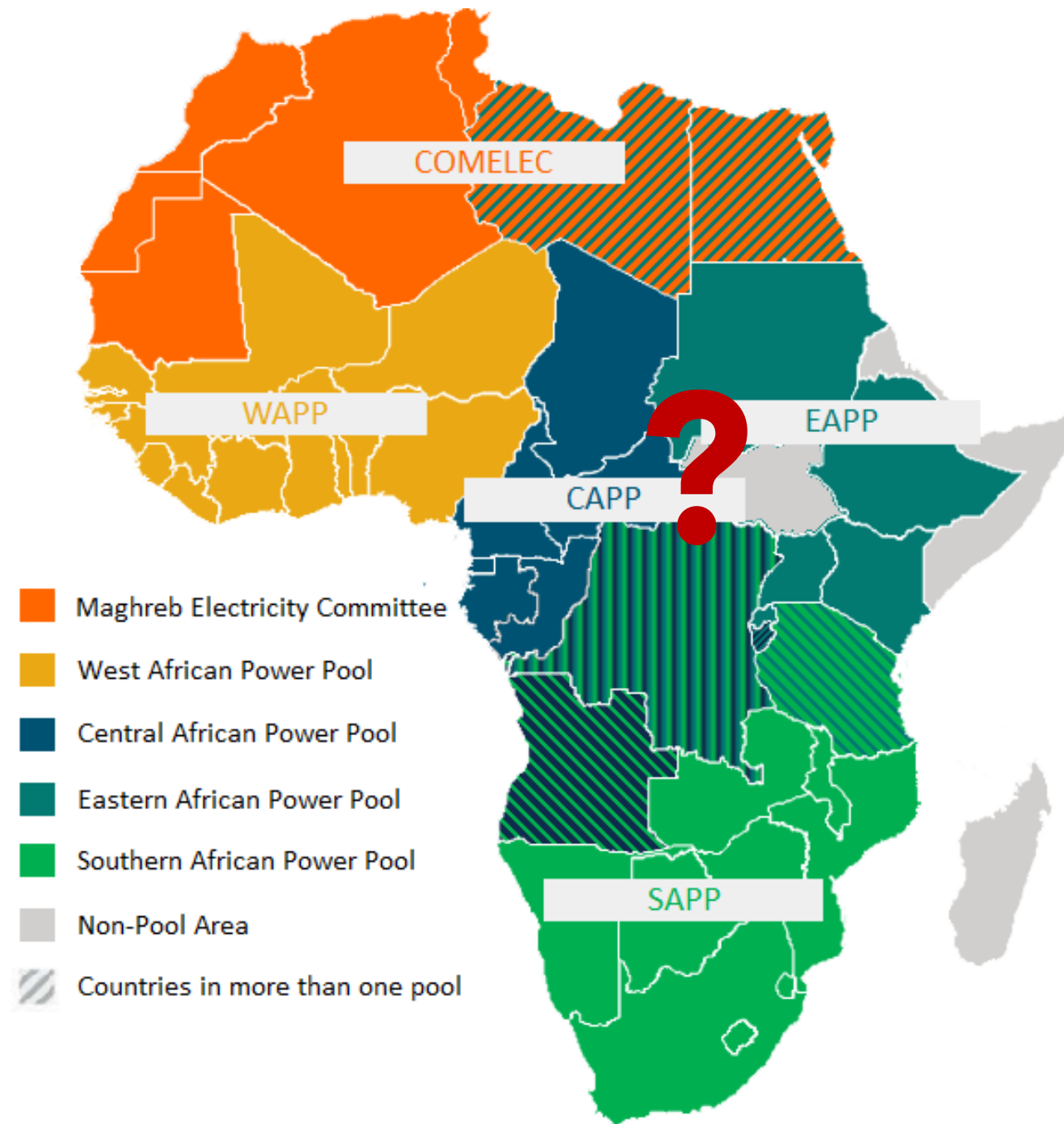
Cities / Villes

- National Capital / Capitale Nationale

OCÉAN ATLANTIQUE

Golfe de Guinée





# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## The principles

- The transmission network charge applied to a network user in its country must give **access to the entire regional market**
  - This is a consequence of the “single system paradigm”

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## The principles

- The transmission network charge applied to a network user in its country must give **access to the entire regional market**
  - This is a consequence of the “single system paradigm”
- The configuration of the **political borders** in a regional electricity market **should not have any impact** on transmission network charges

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## The principles

- The transmission network charge applied to a network user in its country must give **access to the entire regional market**
  - This is a consequence of the “single system paradigm”
- The configuration of the **political borders** in a regional electricity market **should not have any impact** on transmission network charges
- **Transmission charges must not depend on commercial transactions, but on the benefit obtained from (or “use of”) the network**
  - Ignoring this principle, levies too high charges on cross-border trade, killing it



# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## The principles

- The transmission network charge applied to a network user in its country must give **access to the entire regional market**
  - This is a consequence of the “single system paradigm”
- The configuration of the **political borders** in a regional electricity market **should not have any impact** on transmission network charges
- **Transmission charges must not depend on commercial transactions**, but on the benefit obtained from (or “use of”) the network
  - Ignoring this principle, levies too high charges on cross-border trade, killing it
- The sounder the regulation the lower the **risk of opposition** to a transmission project

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## The principles

- The transmission network charge applied to a network user in its country must give **access to the entire regional market**
  - This is a consequence of the “single system paradigm”
- The configuration of the **political borders** in a regional electricity market **should not have any impact** on transmission network charges
- **Transmission charges must not depend on commercial transactions**, but on the benefit obtained from (or “use of”) the network
  - Ignoring this principle, levies too high charges on cross-border trade, killing it
- The sounder the regulation the lower the **risk of opposition** to a transmission project

# **Cost allocation of regional transmission projects**

## **A pragmatic approach based on “best practice”**

- Avoid “pancaking” & charges associated to **commercial transactions**

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## A pragmatic approach based on “best practice”

- Avoid “pancaking” & charges associated to commercial transactions
- Agreement among countries for a stable allocation to countries of the cost of major projects
  - Try allocation to countries based on estimated benefits, otherwise...
  - ... **track sources and sinks** of actual or forecasted flows, minimizing the use of extra assumptions

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## A pragmatic approach based on “best practice”

- Avoid “pancaking” & charges associated to commercial transactions
- Agreement among countries for a stable allocation to countries of the cost of major projects
  - Try allocation to countries based on estimated benefits, otherwise...
  - ... track sources and sinks of actual or forecasted flows, minimizing the use of extra assumptions
- Tracking sources & sinks allows determining **inter-country compensations**.
  - After that, each country will allocate internally the modified transmission total cost following its own principles.

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

## A pragmatic approach based on “best practice”

- Avoid “pancaking” & charges associated to **commercial transactions**
- Agreement **among countries** for a **stable allocation to countries** of the cost of **major projects**
  - Try allocation to countries based on estimated benefits, otherwise...
  - ... **track sources and sinks** of actual or forecasted flows, minimizing the use of extra assumptions
- Tracking sources & sinks allows determining **inter-country compensations**.
  - After that, each country will allocate internally the modified transmission total cost following its own principles.



## RESOLUTION N°006/ERERA/15 Adoption of the Tariff Methodology for Regional Transmission Cost and Tariff

The Regulatory Council,

Mindful of Article 18.5 of Regulation C/REG.27.12/07 of 15 December 2007, as amended, on the composition, organisation, functions and operations of ERERA, and

After the review of the Tariff Methodology for Regional Transmission Cost and Tariff for the West African Power Pool (WAPP) by ERERA's Consultative Committees,

### RESOLVE THAT:

1. The Tariff Methodology for Regional Transmission Cost and Tariff for the West African Power Pool, hereby attached, is approved.
2. The Tariff Methodology for Regional Transmission Cost and Tariff for the West African Power Pool shall be published in the ERERA official Bulletin and Website.

Done in Accra, GHANA, on August 18, 2015

Mr. Alagi Basiru GAYE  
Council Member

Mrs. Ifeyinwa IKEONU  
Acting Chairperson



AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-11) 5182402 Fax: (251-11) 5182400  
Website: www.au.int

IE24288

THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED  
TECHNICAL  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,  
TRANSCONTINENTAL AND  
INTERREGIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURES, ENERGY AND  
TOURISM (STC-TTIET)  
14 – 18 April 2019  
Cairo, Egypt

CONTINENTAL TRANSMISSION TARIFF  
METHODOLOGY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
BILATERAL TRANSACTIONS

THEME: → DEVELOPING SMART  
INFRASTRUCTURE TO BOOST AFRICA'S  
CONTINENTAL TRANSFORMATION AND  
INTEGRATION

TECHNICAL PAPER

# Contracts



# The efficient use of bilateral contracts

- **Bilateral contracts** seek to hedge against price uncertainty & to increase security of supply.

# The efficient use of bilateral contracts

- **Bilateral contracts** seek to hedge against price uncertainty & to increase security of supply.
- However, **physical bilateral contracts** imply physical obligations (*i.e., they are dispatched even if a lower cost alternative exists*).
  - This introduces inefficiencies unnecessarily in the use of generation and transmission infrastructure, reduces total trade and increases system costs.

# The efficient use of bilateral contracts

- **Bilateral contracts** seek to hedge against price uncertainty & to increase security of supply.
- However, **physical bilateral contracts** imply physical obligations (*i.e., they are dispatched even if a lower cost alternative exists*).
  - This introduces inefficiencies unnecessarily in the use of generation and transmission infrastructure, reduces total trade and increases system costs.
- The alternative are **purely financial contracts** (*therefore, ignored in the dispatch of generation under normal supply conditions*) which **only turn to physical** (*providing supply guarantee*) **under scarcity conditions**.
  - This is an important first step towards **security of supply at regional level**.

# The efficient use of bilateral contracts

- **Bilateral contracts** seek to hedge against price uncertainty & to increase security of supply.
- However, **physical bilateral contracts** imply physical obligations (*i.e., they are dispatched even if a lower cost alternative exists*).
  - This introduces inefficiencies unnecessarily in the use of generation and transmission infrastructure, reduces total trade and increases system costs.
- The alternative are **purely financial contracts** (*therefore, ignored in the dispatch of generation under normal supply conditions*) which **only turn to physical** (*providing supply guarantee*) **under scarcity conditions**.
  - This is an important first step towards **security of supply at regional level**.

**Thanks**

And an extra slide...

# The format of transmission charges matter

- Regardless of the method employed to determine the transmission network charge for centralized generators, it remains deciding **how to apply the charges. Errors to be avoided:**
  - **Do not apply volumetric charges** (\$/kWh) to generators, as this artificially modifies their variable cost & thus their dispatch merit order
  - **Do not apply flat capacity charges** (\$/installed kW capacity) to generators, as this may overcharge low utilization generators
  - Try to **apply lump sum annual charges** to generators that are not directly linked to actual recent production, to avoid the two previously described mistakes.