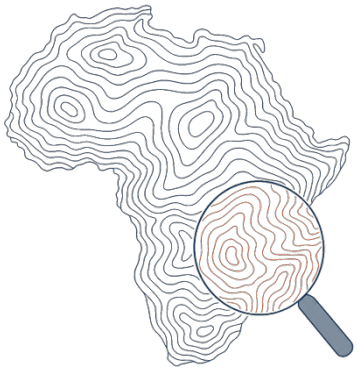
Submarine cables serving Africa:

A Data Landscapers' fact sheet



June 2026

Data collection by Perplexity Computer

This is a human-readable companion to the downloadable `cable-factsheet.csv`. It lists all submarine cables, operating or planned, connecting Africa to the rest of the world. Field definitions and collection rules can be found in the downloadable metadata table.

Quick reference

Cable	Approval	RFS	Owner	Design Tbps	Pairs
SAT-3/WASC	1999	2001	Consortium (36 operators)	0.12	2
EASSy	2007	2010	WIOCC (largest shareholder)	36	2
SEACOM	2007	2009	Remgro / IPS (Aga Khan) (~30% each)	12	2
TEAMS	2007	2009	TEAMS (Kenya) Ltd	5.6	2
MainOne	2008	2010	Equinix, Inc.	8	??
West Africa Cable System (WACS)	2009	2012	Consortium (14 members)	14.5	4
Africa Coast to Europe (ACE)	2010	2012	Orange (consortium lead)	20	2
Equiano	2018	2023	Google LLC	144	12
2Africa	2020	2025	Meta (consortium lead)	180	16
Umoja	2024	2026	Google LLC	??	??
Waterworth	2025	??	Meta	??	24
SEACOM 2.0	??	??	SEACOM (Remgro / IPS-Aga Khan led)	2000	48

SAT-3/WASC

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	1999
Construction start	1999
RFS (ready-for-service)	2001
End of life (est.)	2026

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Consortium (36 operators)
Owner HQ	ZA
Ownership model	consortium
Shareholders	Largest three: TCI/AT&T (US); France Telecom (FR); VSNL (IN); plus 33 others incl. Telkom SA. Exact splits per consortium agreement
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	14350
Origin	Sesimbra, PT
Destination	Melkbosstrand, ZA
Landings	Sesimbra, PT; Dakar, SN; Abidjan, CI; Accra, GH; Cotonou, BJ; Lagos, NG; Douala, CM; Libreville, GA; Cacuaco, AO; Melkbosstrand, ZA
Region served	West Africa; Southern Africa; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	0.12
Fibre pairs	2
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	no
Build cost (USD m)	600
System supplier	Alcatel; Tyco

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Submarine Networks; Wikipedia; ITU (Jagun et al. 2008)
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Submarine Networks, Wikipedia

Notes

Design capacity 120 Gbit/s (= 0.12 Tbps), ~6m simultaneous calls. Interconnects with SAFE at Melkbosstrand. Sources differ on RFS (2001 vs commercial 2002) and length (13,000-14,350 km). Approaching end of design life. African operators hold minority stakes.

EASSy

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2007
Construction start	2008
RFS (ready-for-service)	2010
End of life (est.)	2035

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	WIOCC (largest shareholder)
Owner HQ	MU
Ownership model	consortium
Shareholders	Largely African consortium led by WIOCC (~29%); 16+ members incl. Telkom SA, Botswana Telecom, Dalkom Somalia, others; DFI-underwritten (IFC, AfDB, EIB, KfW/DEG, AFD)
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	10000
Origin	Port Sudan, SD
Destination	Mtunzini, ZA
Landings	Port Sudan, SD; Djibouti; Mogadishu, SO; Mombasa, KE; Dar es Salaam, TZ; Toliary/Tulear, MG; Maputo, MZ; Mtunzini, ZA (+others)
Region served	East Africa; Southern Africa

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	36
Fibre pairs	2
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	yes
Build cost (USD m)	235
System supplier	Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN); Ciena (2014+ upgrades)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Submarine Networks; WIOCC
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Submarine Networks

Notes

RFS July 2010, 10,000 km, 2 fibre pairs, 9 landings (SD, DJ, SO, KE, TZ, KM, MG, MZ, ZA) - confirmed via Submarine Networks. Initial design 68x10Gbps DWDM, upgraded to 4.72 Tbps (2011), >10 Tbps (2014), 36 Tbps (Ciena GeoMesh). Initial investment ~US$235m. WIOCC is largest shareholder at 29%; DFI-underwritten (IFC, EIB, AfDB, AFD, KfW). 18-member largely African consortium.

SEACOM (original)

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2007
Construction start	2008
RFS (ready-for-service)	2009
End of life (est.)	2034

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Remgro / IPS (Aga Khan) (~30% each)
Owner HQ	ZA
Ownership model	joint-venture
Shareholders	Remgro (30%); IPS/Aga Khan (30%); Sanlam (15%); Solcon Capital / Convergence Partners (15%); Brian Herlihy (10%)
African-owned %	75

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	13000
Origin	Mtunzini, ZA
Destination	Marseille, FR / Mumbai, IN
Landings	Mtunzini, ZA; Maputo, MZ; Toliary, MG; Dar es Salaam, TZ; Mombasa, KE; Djibouti; Mumbai, IN; Marseille, FR
Region served	East Africa; Southern Africa; Europe; South Asia

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	12
Fibre pairs	2
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	yes
Build cost (USD m)	650
System supplier	Tyco Telecommunications

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	ITWeb; Submarine Networks; AFRINIC; CISP/SEACOM
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: ITWeb, Wikipedia

Notes

Africa's first privately owned broadband subsea cable. Length cited variously 13,000-17,000 km (13,000 km in operator/AFRINIC materials; 17,000 km in some media). Initial design 1.28 Tbps, upgraded to 12+ Tbps. ~75% African at inception; current splits per ITWeb 2025. EOL estimated RFS+25. Build cost ~US$650m.

TEAMS

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2007
Construction start	2008
RFS (ready-for-service)	2009
End of life (est.)	2034

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	TEAMS (Kenya) Ltd
Owner HQ	KE
Ownership model	public-private
Shareholders	Government of Kenya (~20%) and Kenyan operators incl. Safaricom, Telkom Kenya and others; minority Etisalat (UAE)
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	5000
Origin	Mombasa, KE
Destination	Fujairah, AE
Landings	Mombasa, KE; Fujairah, AE
Region served	East Africa; Middle East

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	5.6
Fibre pairs	2
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	yes
Build cost (USD m)	79
System supplier	Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Networks (ASN)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Submarine Networks; Wikipedia
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Submarine Networks, Wikipedia

Notes

The East African Marine System. 5,000 km Mombasa-Fujairah, 2 fibre pairs, ASN awarded US$79m supply contract Oct 2007 (confirmed). Designed initial capacity 80-120 Gbit/s, raised to 1.2 Tbps in build, upgradable to 5.6 Tbps. Kenyan government and operator owned; exact shareholder splits undisclosed. Build cost figure is the ASN contract value. EOL estimated RFS+25.

MainOne

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2008
Construction start	2009
RFS (ready-for-service)	2010
End of life (est.)	2035

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Equinix, Inc.
Owner HQ	US
Ownership model	sole-owned (private)
Shareholders	Equinix, Inc. (100%, acquired 2022 for US$320m; originally founded by Funke Opeke, Nigeria)
African-owned %	0

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	7000
Origin	Seixal, PT
Destination	Lagos, NG
Landings	Seixal, PT; Accra, GH; Lagos, NG (with branches)
Region served	West Africa; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	8
Fibre pairs	undisclosed
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	yes
Build cost (USD m)	240
System supplier	TE SubCom

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Equinix; Submarine Networks; Ocean News
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Equinix Investor Relations, Submarine Networks

Notes

7,000 km, RFS July 2010, supplied by TE SubCom (confirmed). First privately owned cable on the West African coast; founded as a Nigerian initiative (Funke Opeke / MainOne Cable Company). Triggered ~80% wholesale price crash in Nigeria. Initial design 1.28 Tbps (dual fibre pair), proven/upgraded to ~4.96-10 Tbps. Now wholly US-owned after Equinix's US$320m acquisition completed 2022. Build cost ~US$240m approximate. EOL estimated RFS+25.

West Africa Cable System (WACS)

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2009
Construction start	2009
RFS (ready-for-service)	2012
End of life (est.)	2037

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Consortium (14 members)
Owner HQ	ZA
Ownership model	consortium
Shareholders	14-member consortium incl. MTN (~11% for ~US$90m), Telkom SA, Vodacom, Angola Cables, Tata, Cable&Wireless, Congo Telecom, Togo Telecom and others; individual splits largely undisclosed
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	14530
Origin	Yzerfontein, ZA
Destination	London, GB
Landings	Yzerfontein, ZA (+12 along West African coast incl. Cape Verde, Canary Is.); Portugal; England (14 landings total)
Region served	West Africa; Southern Africa; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	14.5
Fibre pairs	4
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	no
Build cost (USD m)	650
System supplier	Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN); Huawei Marine (upgrades 2015, 2019)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Submarine Networks; Wikipedia
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Submarine Networks, Wikipedia

Notes

Initial design 5.12 Tbps, upgraded to ~14.5 Tbps. MTN's ~US$90m bought ~11% of initial capacity. EOL estimated RFS+25.

Africa Coast to Europe (ACE)

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2010
Construction start	2010
RFS (ready-for-service)	2012
End of life (est.)	2037

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Orange (consortium lead)
Owner HQ	FR
Ownership model	consortium
Shareholders	20-member consortium led by Orange (France); members incl. national operators of connected states; splits undisclosed
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	17000
Origin	Penmarch, FR
Destination	Cape Town, ZA
Landings	PoP-to-PoP Paris, Lisbon, Cape Town; 24 countries connected along West African coast
Region served	West Africa; Southern Africa; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic
Design capacity (Tbps)	20
Fibre pairs	2
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	no
Build cost (USD m)	700
System supplier	Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Submarine Networks; Wikipedia
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Submarine Networks, Wikipedia

Notes

Consortium agreement signed 5 Jun 2010; RFS 15 Dec 2012. Extended to South Africa 2021 (+4,000 km, total 17,000 km, 24 countries). Initial design 5.12 Tbps, upgraded to ~20 Tbps. Cost approximate. EOL estimated RFS+25.

Equiano

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2018
Construction start	2020
RFS (ready-for-service)	2023
End of life (est.)	2048

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Google LLC
Owner HQ	US
Ownership model	sole-owned (private)
Shareholders	Google LLC (100%)
African-owned %	0

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	15000
Origin	Sesimbra, PT
Destination	Melkbosstrand, ZA
Landings	Sesimbra, PT; Lagos, NG; Lome, TG; Swakopmund, NA; Rupert's Bay, SH; Melkbosstrand, ZA
Region served	West Africa; Southern Africa; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic-SDM
Design capacity (Tbps)	144
Fibre pairs	12
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	n/a (sole-owned; capacity sold to customers)

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	no
Build cost (USD m)	undisclosed
System supplier	Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Google Cloud; Submarine Networks; Wikipedia
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Submarine Networks, Wikipedia

Notes

EOL estimated as RFS+25yr design life (not officially stated). ~20x capacity of prior West Africa cable per Google. Branching units allow further landings.

2Africa

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	in-service
Approval year	2020
Construction start	2021
RFS (ready-for-service)	2025
End of life (est.)	2050

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Meta Platforms (consortium lead)
Owner HQ	US
Ownership model	consortium
Shareholders	undisclosed
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	45000
Origin	England, GB
Destination	loop around Africa (33 countries)
Landings	46 cable landing stations in 33 countries across Africa, Europe, Middle East and South Asia
Region served	West Africa; East Africa; Southern Africa; North Africa; Europe; Middle East; South Asia

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic-SDM
Design capacity (Tbps)	180
Fibre pairs	16
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	yes
Build cost (USD m)	undisclosed
System supplier	Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Meta Engineering; Submarine Networks; The Dial
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Meta Engineering, Submarine Networks

Notes

8-member consortium (Meta, Vodafone, Orange, MTN/Bayobab, China Mobile, stc/center3, Telecom Egypt, WIOCC). Equity/capacity splits NOT disclosed; Meta is lead and dominant funder. West segment 8 pairs x 21 Tbps = 168 Tbps; Mediterranean 16 pairs >180 Tbps. 'Open access' is a commercial-access claim, not African ownership. EOL estimated RFS+25.

Umoja

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	under-construction
Approval year	2024
Construction start	2024
RFS (ready-for-service)	2026
End of life (est.)	2051

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Google LLC
Owner HQ	US
Ownership model	sole-owned (private)
Shareholders	Google LLC (100%)
African-owned %	0

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	undisclosed
Origin	Nairobi, KE
Destination	Perth, AU
Landings	Kenya (terrestrial spine via Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe to South Africa); subsea South Africa to Australia
Region served	East Africa; Southern Africa; East Asia

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic-SDM
Design capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Fibre pairs	undisclosed
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	n/a (sole-owned)

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	no
Build cost (USD m)	undisclosed
System supplier	SubCom (subsea); Liquid Intelligent Technologies (terrestrial)

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Google Cloud (Africa Connect); Submarine Networks; Connecting Africa
Confidence	reported
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Google Cloud, Submarine Networks

Notes

First direct Africa-Australia route. Subsea component manufactured/installed by SubCom (confirmed); terrestrial spine built with Liquid Intelligent Technologies (confirmed via Submarine Networks). Route via Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe to South Africa, then subsea to Australia, confirmed. Fibre-pair count, capacity and RFS year not yet disclosed (hence 'reported'). EOL estimated RFS+25.

Project Waterworth

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	planned
Approval year	2025
Construction start	undisclosed
RFS (ready-for-service)	undisclosed
End of life (est.)	undisclosed

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	Meta Platforms
Owner HQ	US
Ownership model	sole-owned (private)
Shareholders	Meta Platforms (100%)
African-owned %	0

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	50000
Origin	United States
Destination	multi-continent (US, India, Brazil, South Africa)
Landings	United States; India; Brazil; South Africa (plus others tbc)
Region served	Southern Africa; South Asia; Americas; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic-SDM
Design capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Fibre pairs	24
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	n/a (sole-owned, primarily internal use)

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	no
Build cost (USD m)	undisclosed
System supplier	undisclosed

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Meta Engineering (primary); Oxford Internet Institute
Confidence	confirmed
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Meta Engineering, University of Oxford

Notes

Length (>50,000 km), 24 fibre pairs, and landings (US, India, Brazil, South Africa across 5 continents) confirmed directly by Meta. World's longest subsea cable project; built primarily for Meta's own AI workloads. Meta's first single-contract private cable of this scale. Depths to 7,000 m. RFS year and exact Tbps not published by Meta ('multi-year investment').

SEACOM 2.0

Lifecycle

Field	Value
Status	announced
Approval year	undisclosed
Construction start	undisclosed
RFS (ready-for-service)	undisclosed
End of life (est.)	undisclosed

Ownership

Field	Value
Controlling owner	SEACOM (Remgro / IPS-Aga Khan led)
Owner HQ	ZA
Ownership model	joint-venture
Shareholders	SEACOM (see seacom-1: Remgro 30%, IPS/Aga Khan 30%, Sanlam 15%, Solcon/Convergence 15%, Herlihy 10%); SEACOM 2.0-specific structure not yet disclosed
African-owned %	undisclosed

Route & physical

Field	Value
Length (km)	25000
Origin	Southern/East Africa (Indian Ocean basin)
Destination	Southern Europe (Mediterranean)
Landings	Over 20 landings in 15 countries across the Indian Ocean basin, Middle East, Mediterranean and Southern Europe (specific landing list not yet published)
Region served	East Africa; Southern Africa; Middle East; Europe

Capacity

Field	Value
Cable type	fibre-optic-SDM
Design capacity (Tbps)	2000
Fibre pairs	48
Est. lit capacity (Tbps)	undisclosed
Tenants / IRU	undisclosed

Commercial / access

Field	Value
Open access	yes
Build cost (USD m)	undisclosed
System supplier	undisclosed

Provenance & quality

Field	Value
Data source	Connecting Africa (Submarine Networks World 2025); AKDN
Confidence	reported
As-of date	2026-06-03
Last updated	2026-06-03

Sources: Connecting Africa, AKDN

Notes

Announced 26 Sep 2025 at Submarine Networks World, Singapore. Headline specs confirmed by announcement: >25,000 km, 48 fibre pairs, 2,000 Tbps (2 Pbps) design capacity, 20+ landings in 15 countries, AI/cloud-oriented. RFS timeline, build start, system supplier, cost and detailed landing list not yet published (hence 'reported'/'announced'). Ownership assumed to follow SEACOM's existing structure pending project-specific disclosure.