

Why Copious Resources of Africa and Massive Dependence on Foreign Aid: Leadership Protagonists Towards Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The states of Africa face many developmental challenges despite their huge resource endowments. The work gives a swift overview of the resources and the associated developmental challenges; queries dependence on foreign Aid; and makes recommendations for sustainable development. It is nonempirical - It relies on theories, methods, personal observations, and contemporary events. The continent is home to many resource-dense natural habitats. The natural resource economy contributes significantly to the built environment, but the continent faces challenges in protecting and using its resources. The resources are also vulnerable to environmental risks, and there is exploitation of the local workers and other human rights concerns. States still depend on foreign Aid. African States should be reluctant to accept foreign aid assistance. However, if there are any needs, there must be reform. There should be massive technological transfer and an emphasis on STEM education to sustainably explore, exploit, develop, and market the resources. With visionary leadership, profitably growing resources, and reforming Aid, foreign Aid will stimulate growth and development and achieve the 2063 agenda. Further research is required into the dependence on foreign Aid in Africa.

Keywords: Resources of Africa; Foreign Aid; Leadership; Sustainable Development

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INTRODUCTION

There are 54 sovereign countries in Africa with great potential. Algeria is Africa's largest country, and the Seychelles is the smallest country. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. Again, the Seychelles is Africa's smallest country by population. The continent is a region of contrasts: the highest point is Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and the lowest point is Lake Assal in Djibouti. The two most interesting geographical features are the Nile River System and the Sahara Desert. Both are impressive in so many ways. Any topographic map will clearly show the flatness of the Sahara Desert, the depression that Lake Chad sits in, the high mountains of the Great Rift Valley, and Lake Victoria, which is all but surrounded by mountains. The Great Rift Valley System is a dramatic depression on Earth's surface, approximately 6,400 km long. It extends from the Red Sea area near Jordan in the Middle East to Mozambique. Many of the highest mountains border the Rift Valley, including Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya and Margherita (Khosla, 2023; National Geographic Society, 2024).

The Mediterranean Sea surrounds the continent to the north, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea along the Sinai Peninsula to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the east and southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. With a population of about 1.3 billion, the continent accounts for just over 14% of the world's human population.

A National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) satellite view of Africa can be more explorative in many applications, including its agriculture, geology, forestry, meteorology, intelligence, and warfare. Nevertheless, what are the resource bequests of this massive continent?

Incidentally, there have been no deliberate efforts to comprehensively list Africa's resources relative to its development and its massive dependence on foreign Aid. The work aims to identify the resources of the African continent and the developmental challenges associated with them. It ruminates on why there is a dependence on foreign Aid despite the continent's humongous human and material resource endowments. It makes recommendations for harnessing these resources for sustainable development in Africa.

Objective and Methodology

The work provides a summary of Africa's resources and the developmental challenges they pose. It queries why there is a dependence on foreign Aid despite the continent's human and material resource endowments. It makes recommendations for harnessing the resources for the sustainable development of Africa. It is nonempirical - It relies on theories, methods, personal observations, and contemporary events. The work relies on theories, authors' observations, and the authorities and experiences of the authors rather than systematic collection and analysis of empirical data, as succinctly described by Arrendale Library (2025). It thus includes literature reviews, meta-analyses, and critical studies. It reviews progress in related fields of research and, at times, provides interpretations of the existing literature. This work reflects philosophical, ethical, and historical analyses. Explicitly, it outlines, with maps and charts, the resources of Africa and their development; the significant challenges to the development of these resources; African dependence on foreign aid; resource management, leadership, and reform of assistance for development; and draws conclusions and makes recommendations.

The Resources of Africa and their Developments

Africa is home to many resource-dense natural habitats, including forests, oceans, coasts, rivers, streams, lakes, deserts, highlands, and more. Africa's diamonds, cobalt, and other minerals abound. The continent is divided almost in half by the Equator. Climatic zones lie on either side of the Equator, like a mirror, with tropical wet climates closer to the Equator and more arid conditions farther from it. This climatic symmetry, however, is disturbed by Africa's irregular shape. Oceanic factors more influence the continent's narrow southern part than the bulging northern segment (National Geographic Society, 2024).

Tropical conditions occur along the Equator, in the Gulf of Guinea, and along the eastern coast of Madagascar. Temperatures remain above 18°C year-round. This climate also has significant



rainfall year-round, totaling 175-250 centimeters. Important crops of this region include plantains, bananas, coffee, cocoa, and oil palms.

Temperatures in the savannas are cooler and more varied than in tropical wet regions. The savanna also receives less annual precipitation, with most rainfall falling during a relatively short rainy season. The crops cultivated include cassava, peanuts, okra, and brinjal. The most important grain crops include millet, sorghum, maize, and others. Desert conditions occur in the northern regions, especially in the Sahara. The Sahel, also in the north, is a semi-arid region that serves as a transition between the desert conditions of the Sahara and the wetter climates to the south. Temperatures range from more than 38°C on the hottest days to below freezing -4°C on the coldest nights. Annual precipitation is about 7.5 centimeters, though some areas go without rain for years. Important desert crops include date palms, which grow in oases, and cotton, which grows in the Sahel and other semi-arid areas (National Geographic Society, 2024).

Mediterranean climate conditions occur along the northern coast and the southwestern tip of South Africa. The climate is characterized by mild temperatures, dry summers, and moderately rainy winters. Cabbage, tomatoes, oranges, olives, and figs are the essential crops. Highland conditions occur at the highest elevations, with the Ethiopian Highlands being one notable area. Temperatures are much colder than the surrounding lowlands. Important crops include grains like wheat, a subsistence crop that makes up a high percentage of the local diet.

The continent has the third-largest area covered by forests, mainly in the wet tropical climate band of Cameroon, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Tanzania. In Cameroon, timber is exported to Europe and China, and forestry accounts for about 4% to 6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The government of Gabon is increasing production efforts to become the world's leading wood producer. Despite the challenges, governments are taking steps to both protect forests and address economic concerns. The Central African Forests Commission, for instance, was created to regulate the forestry sector and promote sustainable use of the rainforest products in the Congo Basin. The commission designated the Sangha Tri-National Landscape, a reserve that covers more than 1 million hectares of rainforest in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (National Geographic Society, 2024).

The fishing industry is valued at around \$24 billion per year, accounting for about 1.3% of Africa's GDP. The continent has fisheries on all its marine coasts, as well as inland. The Great Lakes, Lakes Tanganyika, Victoria, Malawi, Aral Sea, Tukana, Kivu, Nasser, Volta, Kariba, Albert, Rukwa, Mweru, Kahora Bassa, Edward, Funduzi, and Chad; and Rivers Nile, Niger, Benue, Zambezi, Congo-Lualaba-Chambesi, and others support huge freshwater fisheries. West Africa is one of the most economically essential fishing zones in the world, and about 7 million people in the region are employed in the fishing industry. Namibia is also a major fish producer, with exports increasing year on year. Small fish, such as herring and sardines, are the most common catch on the coastlines (National Geographic Society, 2024).

Metals exported by African countries include uranium, platinum, nickel, and cobalt. Others include gold, diamonds, bauxite, iron ore, and coal. In 2021, Africa produced 680.3 metric tons of gold. The continent also dominates the global diamond market, producing about 65% of the world's diamonds by value each year, and is home to select oil and natural gas deposits. Nigeria, Algeria, and Egypt are major producers of natural gas, and Nigeria is also a consistent major oil producer. Excluding diamonds, South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Angola, and Libya produce more than two-thirds of Africa's mineral wealth (National Geographic Society, 2024; World Mining Congress (MWC), 2021). See Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1 shows the world's mineral resources and Africa's position (World Mining Congress (MWC), 2021). Figure 2 is the spatial expression of significant resources of Africa except water, forest, and others (Khosla, 2023); and Figure 3 shows Africa's top mineral producers, that is, apart from Diamond (MWC, 2021). These include South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Angola, Libya, Egypt, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, and Zimbabwe.



Figure 1: Natural Resources: World Mineral Production
Source: World Mining Congress (MWC). (2021)

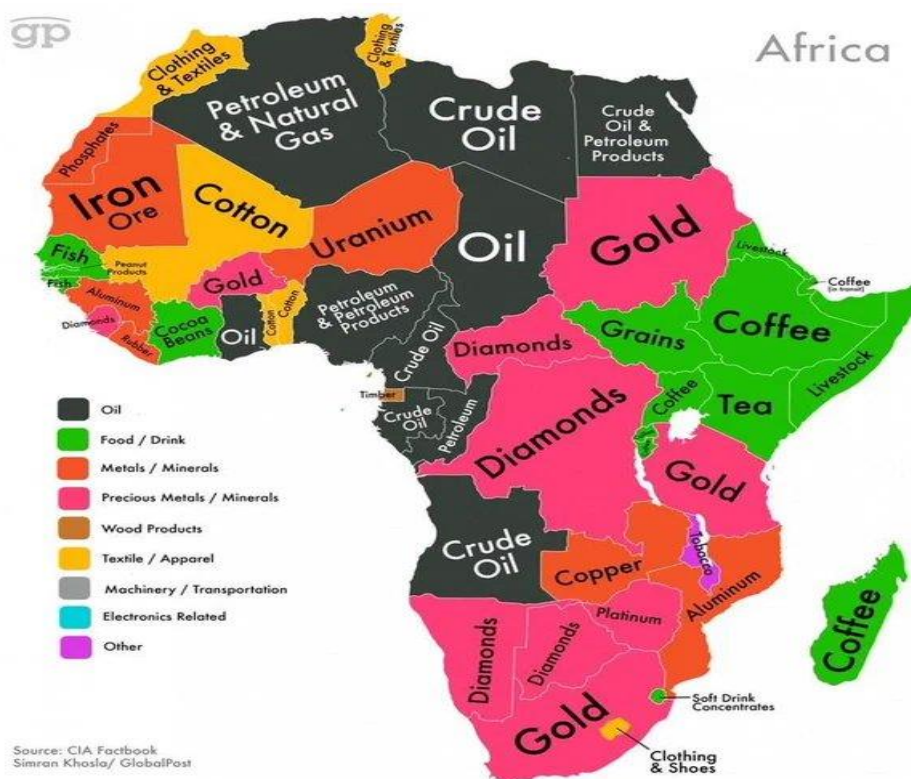


Figure 2: Major resources of Africa
Source: Khosla, S. (2023).

Africa is particularly rich in diamond deposits, with primary diamond-mining countries including Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Namibia, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Govind, 2023). Botswana is the largest producer, followed by Angola (Sasu, 2024). Gem-quality diamonds have been mined mainly on the continent since the 1870s, accounting for 62% of global diamond production (Diallo, 2023).

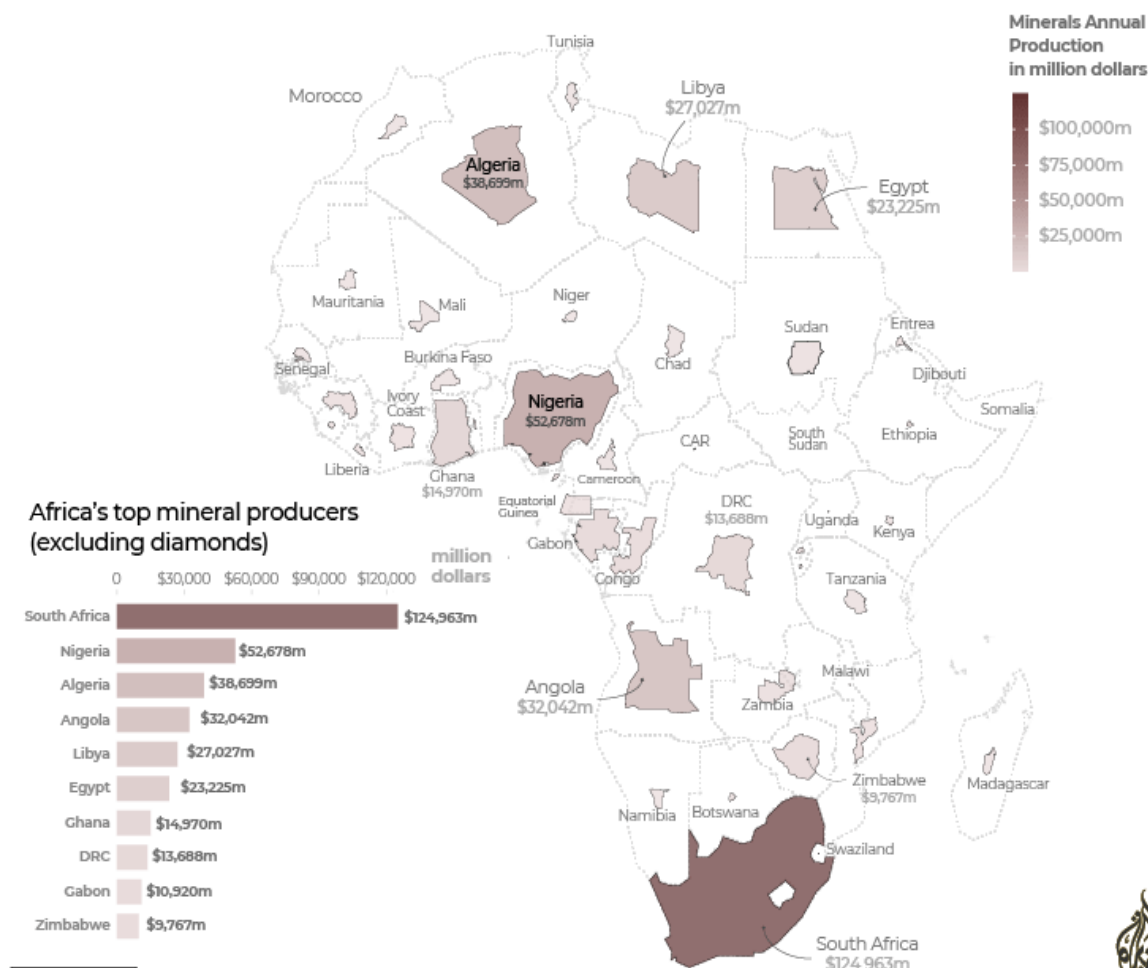


Figure 3: Natural Resources: Africa's top mineral producers

Source: World Mining Congress (MWC). (2021).

Africa is also a continent of incredible diversity, from its stunning landscapes to its rich and complex cultures. Vast deserts give way to lush rainforests, and bustling cities sit alongside remote tribal villages. The continent is home to some of the world's most iconic natural wonders, from the majestic Victoria Falls to the awe-inspiring Mount Kilimanjaro. However, the continent is not just a place of breathtaking scenery. It is also a place of warmth and generosity. Visitors are welcomed with open arms and treated like family. The vibrant music, art, and cuisine reflect its incredible diversity, offering a unique and unforgettable sensory experience. From the bustling streets of Marrakech to the stunning beaches of Zanzibar, Africa offers something for all tourists, making it a truly one-of-a-kind destination that cannot be missed (National Geographic Society, 2024; Aderogba & Komolafe, 2024).

The natural resource economy contributes significantly to the continent's built environment, including artificial structures. The Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa in Cape Town, South

Africa, which was formerly a grain silo, is of note. Its soaring ceilings made from the storage chambers of the silo are a stunning example of adaptive reuse of materials. The Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre, also located in South Africa, was designed to be energy-efficient and self-supporting, with no significant structural framework. Lagos, Nigeria, is booming economically and accounts for about 25% of Nigeria's GDP. City dwellers are developing innovative solutions to address some residential problems. For example, a local architect designed a plan called the Floating School, consisting of school buildings that can adapt to changing water levels so children can continue attending school regardless of conditions. Urban development projects in cities in Rwanda and Kenya plan to create hubs of sustainable technology that will help their communities come together and plan. However, there are challenges to developing the resources.

Major Challenges of Development

The compounding effects of poverty and economic pressures from nations in Europe, North America, and Asia exacerbate the challenges of addressing decades-long imbalances that have hampered development. Countries face several challenges as governments and the establishments in Europe, North America, and Asia continue to vie for control and influence over the continent and its resources (Schmidt, 2002). The resources, too, are vulnerable to environmental risks, and there continues to be exploitation of local workers and other human rights concerns.

There is a trade imbalance, a legacy of colonialism. In recent decades, fairtrade policies have been put in place to address this issue. This movement is ensuring that Europeans and Americans pay farmers fair prices. Fair trade also focuses on human rights and issues such as child labor, equal opportunities for women, sustainability, and other issues affecting African farmers (Schmidt, 2002; Moseley, 2008).

The interventions benefited over 600,000 Fairtrade farmers and workers in only 9 African countries. Some countries that have significantly increased their participation in fair trade certification have seen profits and improved their industries. Coffee farmers in Uganda have been Fairtrade certified, which has improved production and export profits since the 1990s. The cocoa industry in Ghana has not had such success, however. Farmers there saw their incomes fall in 2023 even as production increased, despite fair trade cooperatives being quite active (Khosla, 2023; National Geographic Society, 2024).

Critics of fair trade argue that its certification process is driven by large cooperatives in the Global North and that African farmers have less say in it. This had led some companies to create their own Fairtrade certification. The "fair trade" seal of approval is meant to appeal to consumers in North America and Europe and make them feel good about their purchases, without advocating for systemic change (National Geographic Society, 2024; Sarcauga, 2014).

Companies based in the Global North source cobalt from Africa, increasing the demand astronomically. In the DRC, cobalt mining has been plagued by human rights violations. People living in cobalt-rich areas have been forcibly removed from their homes and told to relocate so that mines can be opened on their lands. There are safety issues for cobalt workers. Companies pay workers just \$1 a day and offer no job security or benefits. The dangerous work is made worse because workers are using outdated tools. The mining process is toxic. To add to the human rights issues, child labor is frequently used (National Geographic Society, 2024). The conditions are equally poisonous, explosive, and toxic in South Africa. A large percentage of whom were migrants from other African countries with little or no formal training in mining, were often engaged (Khosla, 2023).

Consistent with the National Geographic Society (2024), the forest sector faces many challenges, including illegal logging. The continent loses an estimated \$17 billion in revenue each year from illegal logging, and much of the wood is smuggled to China and Europe. Deforestation due to agricultural expansion is also a challenge. About 10% of Ghana's trees were cleared for cocoa farming between 2001 and 2014. One major issue limiting forest protection is a lack of government safeguards, with only about 24% of Africa's forests having adequate management plans. The sector, however, suffers from illegal logging and overharvesting of particular plant

species. Experts argue that overharvesting will eventually destroy forest habitats. Saplings planted to replace the logged trees do not grow fast enough to be harvested regularly, and the rainforest habitat in which these trees thrive is being destroyed for agriculture and physical development (Aderogba & Komolafe, 2024). The continent is now torn between developing its forests to their fullest economic potential and protecting these natural landscapes from over-development (Aderogba & Komolafe, 2024; Altenburg, 2020). For instance, the Central African Forests Commission regulates Africa's forestry sector and promotes sustainable use of the Congo Basin's rainforest products. The commission created the Sangha Tri-National Landscape, a reserve that covers more than 1 million hectares of rainforest in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of the Congo (Altenburg, 2020; Aderogba & Komolafe, 2024).

Like the forestry sector, the fishing sector suffers from overharvesting due to illegal fishing, often by Chinese fleets. Chinese vessels are better equipped than traditional African fishing boats and can catch significantly larger quantities, significantly destroying African fishing nets. One group working on this issue is the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF), which also aims to strengthen environmental management to help grow fish populations. The goal of these processes is to increase fishery revenue and promote the sustainable use of marine and inland fish resources (National Geographic Society, 2024).

Also consistent with the National Geographic Society (2024), several conflicts and civil wars have been caused and funded by the diamond industry. Diamonds from South African regions are known as conflict diamonds, or blood diamonds. In 2003, the United Nations created the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) to certify diamonds sourced from regions free of conflict. Though the KPCS has been successful in reducing the production of conflict diamonds, it does not address significant concerns related to human rights or environmental degradation.

In Nigeria, indigenous tribal groups have raised concerns that oil companies based in North America, Europe, and China have exploited the group's oil resources and their labor. They also charge that out-of-date equipment has severely polluted the environment. Some locals resorted to damaging the pipelines and other acts of civil disobedience. Some of these groups, like the Ogoni, have been able to stop oil companies from extracting oil from their lands. This has caused its own set of problems, however, as the oil companies have left their pipelines in the region even though they are not extracting oil. These pipelines eventually failed, resulting in massive oil spills (Nwozor, 2020; Omofonmwan & Odia, 2018). In 2023, a significant oil spill spread over 10 kilometers along the Okulu River, an important fishing area for residents. It took more than a week to contain.

The tourism potentials are faced with several constraints: Inadequate infrastructure, land availability, investor access to finance, taxes on tourism investments, low levels of tourism skills, lack of security, safety, and high crime, public health, visa requirements, and red tape and bureaucracy (Signé, 2018; The World Bank, 2017). Thus, despite the massive resource endowment, there is under-exploitation, overexploitation, and under-development. There are low infrastructural developments, socioeconomic development programmes are frequently distorted, truncated, and turned out to be meaningless, STEM education is inadequate, corruption pervades all strands of leadership and governments, industrialization is at the lowest ebb, dependence on foreign Aid is ubiquitous, and the foreigners are bent on having a substantial share of the bequest, and sometimes all.

It is bothersome that despite the abundance of resources, states still depend heavily on foreign Aid. It may be baffling and incredible what the realized revenues from the Aid sources are expended on, and what the Aid is expected to be. However, what Aid have been the baits, and how have they been applied as a grave drawback and or inducement for Africa?

Dependence on Foreign Aid

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is the "venue and voice" of the world's major donor countries. As of November 2022, there were 31 members, including the European Union,

which acts as a full member of the committee. In addition, there are "Participants" and "Observers" (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2006). Consistent with Wabai (2020), six of the top 15 countries receiving DAC-aid are in Africa.

In 2017, India and Turkey received the most significant shares of Aid, and among the top 10 recipients, 2 were African countries. Ethiopia received most of its assistance from the US, and Morocco received the majority of its Aid from Europe. The likes of Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and South Sudan are the primary beneficiaries of the assistance, ranking 15th, 14th, 13th, and 11th, respectively, with the United States as the largest donor (Wabai, 2020). However, the sums are relatively low (in comparison to other nations).

Gaille (2018) avers that Foreign Aid can be offered directly or indirectly. Indirect foreign Aid may not be classified as official Aid for budgeting purposes (Adeniyi & Oke, 2018; Gaille, 2018). The advantages and disadvantages of foreign Aid examine the reality of wealth transfers. The average American believes 25% of the government's budget goes to foreign Aid. About 1% of the budget is directly associated with this practice (Wabai, 2020). As ascertained and asserted by Adeniyi & Oke (2018), and Gaille (2018), foreign Aid has some advantages.

US foreign aid to Africa began in the 1960s, but, except for disaster and famine relief, most Aid to Africa decreased after the collapse of the Soviet Union (Bonasso, 2013). In the 2000s, the government more than tripled Aid to Africa by establishing programmes such as the Child Survival and Health Programme Fund (CSHPF) and the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative. In 2012, the United States alone provided nearly \$12 billion in official development assistance (ODA) to African nations. The ODA was allocated to education, health, infrastructure, and economic development programmes in the recipient countries. The following year, the UnAidd States allocates foreign Aid to 47 African nations, and USAID operates 27 missions on the continent (Bonasso, 2013).

The foreign aid programmes also benefit the United States in several ways: The programmes help build strategic alliances and foster support for democratic transitions. Bonasso (2013) avers that it was also intended to stimulate Africa's growth and development, thereby providing opportunities for increased trade and direct investment in the continent's emerging markets.

Critics are precise that American companies and corrupt politicians siphon a large portion of the foreign Aid. Aid to Africa has not done much to improve infrastructure, bolster economic development, or improve health care conditions on the continent (Adamu, 2013; Bonasso, 2013; Adesina, 2023).

Again, like Galiani et al. (2017), Wabai (2020), and Melesse (2021), Gaille (2018) provides a list of the hindrances generally and particularly to Africa. It shows that it is an ethical and moral action that may offer many positive outcomes. Both the recipient and the donor can benefit in numerous ways. It can also cause strife and conflict, especially if the distribution is not adequately supervised. Even when developing countries receive foreign Aid, there is a high risk that it may go to waste (Gailee, 2018).

As earlier stated, the fact that foreign Aid as currently practiced has failed to achieve poverty reduction targets in Africa is apparent: Currently, over 75% of the world's poor live in Africa. In 1970, the figure was 10%. Some forecasts suggest it could rise to 90% by 2030 (Melesse, 2021). Africa is the only continent where official aid inflows exceed private capital inflows by a large margin. This is problematic, since no country in the world, particularly in Africa, has achieved substantial development through reliance on Aid. These are pointers to the need for holistic reform (Melesse, 2021).

Predominantly in Africa, there are two sides to the debate on the foreign Aid: Africa's aid-dependent economic model provides "free" money which prevents countries from taking advantage of opportunities offered by the global econoAid The other is that foreign Aid is not a problem by itself, but misallocation of resources, corruption, and bad governance limiting abiAidy to appropriately use the Aid (Gailee, 2018; Melesse, 2021).

The arguments against aid point to gaps in the management. Recipient countries pour aid money into poor and inefficient white elephant projects that neither foster growth and development nor build good institutions. Moreover, "there is misuse of the money" (Melesse,

2023). Melesse (2023) identifies and extensively discusses old and contemporary debates against Aid.

Resource Management, Leadership, and Reformation of Aid for Development

The resources within each country are enormous. What is required are, first, patriotic leaders who are determined to turn things around; and, second, massive technological transfer and an emphasis on STEM education to sustainably explore, exploit, develop, and market the resources. Consistent with Melesse (2021), African States should be reluctant to accept Foreign Aid. However, should there be any needs, a reform should apply, namely, among others:

- De-linking African institutions from an aid-dependent economic model that has made many governments think of Aid as a source of income;
- Adopting the Marshall Plan, and
- Overhauling the way Aid is set.
- Indeed, if Aid is going to foster growth and development, the following conditions need to be met:
 - Economic and foreign Aid must be directed to achieving sustained growth in per capita income by encouraging a shift from agrarian-based production to manufacturing and a technologically sophisticated service sector.
 - Bilateral or multilateral collaborations must be established with countries that have already pushed the technological frontier with international Aid in line with this.
 - Both national and foreign government policies need to target development programmes that can foster growth and reduce reliance on Aid.
 - Poverty and underdevelopment that are exacerbated by natural disasters must be revisited for the benefit of Africa and Africans; and
 - Foreign aid reform should be designed to advance the agenda of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Finding a balance between African workers' right to govern their own industries and their being held to an international standard of fair practices is a challenge that national governments must address together. Mining situations are calamitous. Countries that buy African resources should jointly institute safety protocols and proper mining procedures for the benefit of Africa and Africans. In recent years, the Nigerian government has taken stronger steps to protect the environment and the "host" citizens living in the areas where drilling occurs. The government passed the Petroleum Industry Act. The act has a wide range of provisions to improve the oil sector, including diverting funds to environmental remediation and support for host communities, and giving host communities greater input in decision-making, which is an essential step toward addressing issues around oil production.

Zakaria (2019), like Signé and Gurib-Fakim (2019), remarked that it is hard to imagine why Africa and Africans remain as they are, given the involvement of Africans and the black race in general in the world's massive achievements in development. They opined that Africa must develop a new breed of patriotic and competent leaders who desire to see the nations and Africa free; help Africans build confidence in themselves, their future, food, culture, dress code, and the way they work and talk; and to take complete control of their natural resources and national borders. There must be an awakening of Africans' (particularly leaders at all levels) conscience before it is too late (Negussie, 2018). The leaders are not just to sit on the vast resources that are valuable and rewarding within and outside of the continent. Zakaria (2019), like Signé and Gurib-Fakim (2019), remarked that it is hard to imagine why Africa and Africans remain as they are, given the involvement of Africans and the black race in general in the world's massive achievements in development. They opined that Africa must develop a new breed of patriotic and competent leaders who desire to see the nations and Africa free; help Africans build confidence in themselves, their future, food, culture, dress code, and the way they work and talk; and to take complete control of their natural resources and national borders. There must be an awakening of

Africans' (particularly leaders at all levels) conscience before it is too late (Negussie, 2018). The leaders are not just to sit on the vast resources that are valuable and rewarding within and outside of the continent.

Conclusion

Africa is endowed with human and material resources. However, the continent has been lavishly impoverished by underexploitation, mismanagement, foreign investors who had gobbled up the best of the resources, and foreigners, mainly under the aegis of foreign Aid. The continent is still unable to care for and create jobs for its young, teeming population.

If natural resources had been appropriately managed, the continent would not be where it is now. Major "problems seem to be bad leadership and corruption." What is paramount is paradigm change. Drawing insights from both the successes and failures of resource-rich countries around the world, African nations must accept the following:

- Harnessing the full value of the resources for development;
- Managing expectations to ensure fiscal sustainability;
- Embracing megatrends such as regional integration, the low-carbon transition, and mechanization and digitalization in the resource sector, as opportunities to break with the past, and
- Navigating a development path consistent with the pressures of Dutch disease

One way to reform foreign Aid is to decouple African institutions from an aid-dependent economic model that has led many governments to view Aid as a source of income. Instead, African countries should promote private-sector development and entrepreneurship, and improve tax culture. The Marshall Plan, introduced by the United States of America, was adopted and applied in 1948 to assist 16 European nations in rebuilding their economies and strengthening democracy following the devastation of World War II. Finally, the way aid priorities are set needs to be overhauled. The followings need to be taken on board:

- Economic and foreign Aid must be directed to achieving sustained growth in per capita income by encouraging a shift from agrarian-based production to manufacturing and a technologically sophisticated service sector.
- Bilateral or multilateral collaborations must be established with countries that have already pushed the technology frontier.
- Both national and foreign government policies need to target a development programme that can drive growth and reduce Aid.
- Humanitarian Aid should be directed at helping countries reinvest in resilience. Developed nations must follow cooperation and diplomacy to solve problems like conflicts, rather than using Aid to pressure governments.
- Foreign aid reform needs to be designed to strengthen the schema of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Africa must turn the youth bulge into a powerful and productive youth dividend, and, for social, economic, and technological development, emphasize STEM education. Further in-depth research, Aid, and timely reforms of foreign assistance would help to achieve significant growth and poverty reduction. These would profitably develop the resources of the Aidtinent; reform foreign Aid for growth and development; and achieve the 2063 agenda of the African Union.

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