Angola

Priority Areas

Country Profile

2023

Blockchain and Digital Transformation in Africa.

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Note: The information presented here highlights crucial focus areas for the country, especially in the context of the emerging industries of Fintech, DeFi (Decentralized Finance), NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens), and cryptocurrencies. The information presented sheds light on several developments and pioneering enterprises that are fueling the country's digital progress in the blockchain domain. However, it is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list; rather, it provides a glimpse into the country's direction and ability to achieve key milestones in the blockchain sector.

Fintech

Digital Payments and Remittances	**Cardano (ADA):** Cardano's commercial branch, Emurgo, has participated in various Angolan projects. One project uses blockchain technology to enable digital payments and remittances for the unbanked. Financial inclusion can be improved by using Cardano's blockchain architecture for secure, low-cost transactions.
	Bitpesa: It is a blockchain-based payment network, allows rapid, low-cost cross-border remittances. Bitpesa operates in various African nations, including Angola. Bitcoin can be used to transfer and receive money. Bitpesa minimizes remittance fees and promotes transparency.
Financial Inclusion and Microfinance	**The Banco Nacional de Angola** created the **Laboratory of Innovation of Payment Systems in Angola (LISPA)** to foster fintech and financial services innovation[1]. LISPA and Portuguese innovation advisor Beta-i created a Fintech Regulatory Sandbox.The sandbox gives fintech startups a real-world market to test their goods and services while receiving regulatory supervision. The Laboratório de Inovação do Sistema de Pagamentos Angolano (LISPA) accelerates and incubates financial inclusion in Angola, where a large segment of the population lacks banking services. Beta-I, BNA, and LISPA want to enhance fintech innovation in Angola, increase financial inclusion through technology, create jobs, and promote open and transparent communication between regulators and new market actors. Thus, new initiatives can adapt to existing regulations and examine regulatory changes in the sandbox.
	KixiCrédito, Angola's top microfinance institution, collaborated with IFC (International Finance Corporation) to boost financial inclusion and economic growth[2]. The partnership will improve KixiCrédito's digital banking services and create new solutions for Angolan people and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). In this case,

[1] Richie Santosdiaz, "Building the Financial Services and Fintech Ecosystem Foundation in Angola," The Fintech Times, August 29, 2020, https://thefintechtimes.com/building-the-financial-services-and-fintech-ecosystem-foundation-in-angola/.
[2] International Finance Corporation, "IFC, KixiCrédito Partner to Boost Access to Digital Financial Services in Angola," IFC, 2022, https://pressroom.ifc.org/all/pages/PressDetail.aspx?ID=26900#:~:text=Luanda%2C%20Angola%2C%20March%2029%2C.

	technology will help KixiCrédito reach the unbanked and offer innovative digital financial products. IFC will help KixiCrédito evaluate its digital transformation and develop a strategy for disruptive and inclusive financial services. Improving delivery routes, efficiency, and financial inclusion in Angola is the goal. IFC and KixiCrédito will further investigate Angola's digital financial services market, regulatory environment, and prospective partnerships with key digital and fintech ecosystem actors.
Insurance Technology	Bitcoin's Aon Angola, a local division of Aon, collaborated with Tech Africa, a prominent technology business in Africa, to add insurtech products to AngoCasa, a real estate marketplace[3]. This collaboration will make insurance products easier and more transparent for Angolans. The cooperation aims to make insurance more accessible to Angolans. Tech Africa's AngoCasa and AngoCarro marketplaces will offer auto and home insurance. This alliance aims to improve user experience by delivering new services and making them seamless. AngoCasa, which acquired Jumia House in 2017, will join with Aon Angola to offer insurance products. The collaboration aims to improve Tech Africa's portals and meet clients' changing needs.
Blockchain and Cryptocurrency	**Kitadi:** This crowdfunding website offers loans and returns to people and businesses. It links investors and borrowers. **GeneralPay:** GeneralPay processes payments online. It helps e-commerce enterprises generate sales, invoices, bank reference payments, and online payments. **CUTXY Angola Group:** A cutting-edge finance and credit team. They build business models to enhance financial inclusion. They want to make financial services available to the public. **LWEI:** Fintech enabler LWEI integrates financial services companies, especially startups. They provide a user-friendly interface for e-commerce platforms. LWEI offers USSD interfaces for informal market payment accounts. **Kwanzafly:** Electronic payments and financial management app. It serves businesses and individuals.

[3] Victoria Haviland, "Aon and Tech Africa Partner up to Elevate AngoCasa with Insurtech Products | Online Marketplaces," www.onlinemarketplaces.com, 2021, https://www.onlinemarketplaces.com/articles/aon-and-tech-africa-partner-up-to-elevate-angocasa-with-insurtech-products/.

	APIs, payment messages, card readers, and finance management solutions for businesses. It offers a personal electronic wallet for transferring and receiving money, making payments, monitoring accounts, and buying cryptocurrencies.
Mobile Banking and Digital Wallets	**Multicaixa Express: Angolan** institutions like Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC) and Banco Millennium Atlântico offer mobile banking using Multicaixa Express. Mobile banking allows customers check balances, transfer funds, and pay bills. **Tupuca Wallet:** Angola's popular food delivery and logistics company Tupuca offers a digital wallet. Tupuca Wallet enables users load funds and pay for meals, transportation, and other purchases through the app. **iKeve Mobile:** Angola's main bank, Banco de Comércio e Indústria (BCI), offers a mobile banking platform. Mobile banking helps customers manage accounts, transfer payments, pay bills, and more. **Zap Mobile:** Unitel, one of Angola's largest telecom firms, offers Zap Mobile, a digital wallet. It stores funds in a mobile phone-linked digital wallet. Zap Mobile users can buy airtime, pay bills, and transfer money. **mKesh:** Angola's Banco Angolano de Investimentos (BAI) offers a mobile banking and digital wallet solution called mKesh. It provides account administration, cash transfer, bill payment, and mobile top-up. **Africell**: The company has expanded into Angola with mobile money services. In October 2022, the telecom operator tested its mobile money platform in Angola, joining The Gambia, DRC, and Sierra Leone. The commercial launch allows Angolan members use the platform for mobile top-ups, deposits, person-to-person money transfers, bill payments, and merchant payments. Africell Angola received license from the National Bank of Angola (BNA) to provide mobile financial services and conducted a six-month trial phase to comply with market requirements[4]. Africell Angola competes with Unitel and Movicel after launching Afrimoney. Africell's goal is to improve Angola's telecom sector and economy by introducing mobile money services.

[4] Africell, "Africell Launches Mobile Money Services in Angola," Africell, 2022, https://www.africell.com/en/news/65.

DeFi

Improving Financial Inclusion

Bybit, a renowned cryptocurrency exchange, has placed the Angola Project utility token AGLA on its Launchpool. The Angola Project is a web3 creator economy based social NFT system that aims to mainstream NFTs. NFT cameras allow Angola Project users to create NFT content and issue NFTs with photographs and videos for various reasons in the NFT social system. Community members respect these NFTs, and users can earn decent returns.

Angola's governance token and reward token are based on the AGLA token. Users can buy NFTs and stakes with AGLA tokens. To preserve value, NFT sales burn some AGLA tokens. Bybit Launchpool, part of Bybit receive, enables users to stake tokens and receive incentives with high Annual Percentage Yields (APYs). Staking and unstaking tokens earns fees. Tether bonuses are also available[5]. Angola Project members and investors administer the system with a web3 DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization). Therefore, the DAO decentralizes the project without intermediaries.

Building Infrastructure for Digital Payments

Cybersecurity Framework: Angola is rebuilding its ICT and cybersecurity infrastructure. Data centers, satellite projects, and optic fiber networks will help the country become a southern and central African hub. In this regard, phones and the internet will be more accessible after telecom liberalization. The COVID-19 epidemic has advanced digital transformation despite 26% internet penetration.[6] Angola wants more infrastructure and market participants to bridge urban-rural connectivity gaps. SAT-3/WASC, AngoSat 2, WACS, SACS, ADONES, SAex, and ACE undersea cables will help improve connectivity. The government is prioritizing cybersecurity and data protection projects. Information and infrastructure security is an opportunity for interested private companies. Power shortages, sluggish internet connections, pricey data, and limited fiber network coverage make cloud computing difficult for digital transformation. Angola seeks secure ICT systems and less business disruptions.

Orange and Angola Cables have partnered to share West African Djoliba Network infrastructure. Leveraging

[5] Zawya, "Bybit Launchpool Lists the Angola Project Governance Token AGLA," www.zawya.com, 2022, https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/bybit-launchpool-lists-the-angola-project-governance-token-agla-jzr64qi5.
[6] Trade.gov, "Angola Information and Communications Technology," www.trade.gov, 2022, https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/angola-information-and-communications-technology.

	infrastructure enables both organizations increase worldwide connectivity. Orange and Angola Cables will share their subsea cable network and backbone infrastructure. This alliance gives firms efficient and secure digital and cloud services to expand globally. West Africa's 10,000-kilometer terrestrial fiber optic Djoliba network provides secure, high-speed broadband[7]. Companies are making similar collaborations to expand their fiber optic networks and improve connection across the continent.
Encouraging the use of Mobile Money	Angola established mobile money services to enable millions of people access traditional banking. Without a bank account, these services allow withdrawals, deposits, and transfers. Poverty, unemployment, and corruption make Angola one of the poorest nations. The economy is unstable due to oil exports. UNITEL Money, launched by Huawei and UNITEL, is available in all 18 Angolan provinces. Using Angola's high cellphone and internet penetration, the goal is to reach 3 million people.[8] UNITEL will use its agents to make deposits, withdrawals, and transfers nationwide. It promotes financial inclusion and economic progress in Angola.
Developing Regulatory Frameworks for DeFi	The DeFi industry in Angola is likely to benefit or suffer from the Central Bank of Angola's examination of cryptocurrency and measures to strengthen the legal environment for payment systems, including virtual assets like cryptocurrency. Notably, the DeFi initiatives and services will profit from the Central Bank's approval and regulation of cryptocurrency. It will encourage decentralized financial innovation and investment by providing regulatory predictability. However, the Central Bank's focus on virtual asset risks, in line with FATF principles, is likely to create regulatory difficulties and compliance requirements for DeFi platforms in Angola. In this regard, DeFi projects will need to comply with money laundering, terrorism funding, and cybercrime regulations, which might raise compliance and administrative costs.

[7] Staff Writer, "Angola Cables, Orange Seal Infrastructure Sharing Agreement," ITWeb Africa, May 22, 2023, https://itweb.africa/content/mQwkoq6YAjOM3r9A.
[8] Matthew Port Louis, "The Launch of Mobile Money Services in Angola," The Borgen Project, October 9, 2021, https://borgenproject.org/mobile-money-services-in-angola/.

Promoting DeFi Literacy and Education	EXIN Blockchain Foundation Training in Angola covers blockchain technology and cryptocurrency applications in depth. Blockchain as a decentralized ledger for currency and asset transfers is covered in the course. Participants learn about blockchain's cryptography, hashes, public keys, and consensus techniques. Classroom, online, onsite, private team, and private 1-to-1 training are available for the 2-day course[9]. It is designed for business and IT professionals who use blockchain as a cryptography and smart contract solution. Hence, Angolan students in the EXIN Blockchain Foundation Training learn how to use blockchain technology in their industry.

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[9] Spoclearn, "Blockchain Foundation Training in Angola," Spoclearn.com (Spoclearn, 2023), https://www.spoclearn.com/ao/courses/open-source/blockchain-foundation-training/.

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