



Kinshasa renewable electricity

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KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of Congo: Africa's vast landscape has long been poised for an energy revolution, thanks to an abundance of natural resources like the sun and wind.

Vital Batantu, a community leader in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said a shortage of energy not only deprives residents, but also emboldens crooks to commit crimes under the cover of darkness.

However, these plans have been in the works for decades. Those working on the project said there is insufficient money to proceed with the project, and securing funding is their biggest challenge.

"On the national level, the Congolese state has allocated a certain amount of money... despite all the social economic problems we are facing," said Damien Twambilangana, the deputy managing director of the National Agency for Rural Electrification Services.

"Our country experiences a lot of power cuts and so our service is dealing with that problem - fighting against the unreliable supply of power," said Elysee Kapinga, the director of Longa Molili Solar Firm.

The renewable energy source has taken flight in a few African countries, but the Global Wind Energy Council said the continent is using less than 1 per cent of its wind power potential.

But for fossil-fuel dependent Africa, where green energy reportedly accounts for just one-fifth of its electricity output, that target remains out of reach - unless the international community chips in.

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