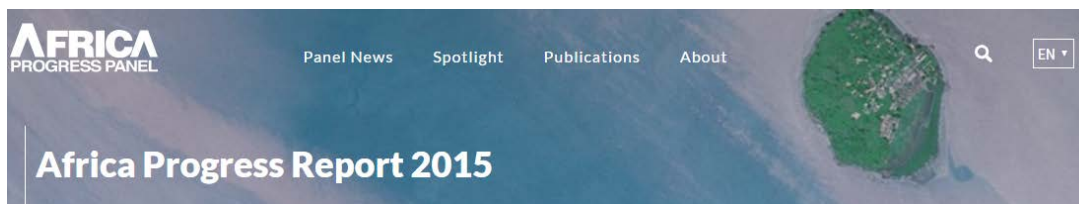


CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING ACTIVITY

Work individually or with a partner/group. Read the text below which is an excerpt from the Africa Progress Panel (APP) website. **Think about the types of questions you would ask** about the text in your evaluation of its reliability and credibility. Annotate the text and write your questions on this page.

CONTEXT

The APP consists of ten distinguished individuals from the private and public sector who advocate for equitable and sustainable development for Africa. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel laureate, chairs the APP and is closely involved in its day-to-day work.

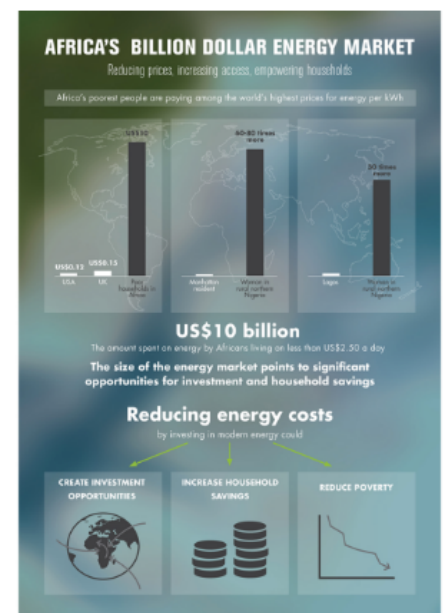


DISCONNECTED AFRICA

Affordable and reliable electricity underpins every aspect of social and economic life. But Sub-Saharan Africa has an energy crisis that demands urgent political attention. Two in every three Africans, around 621 million in total, have no access to electricity at all.

The consequences of energy deficits have yet to register with sufficient force on the policy agendas of Africa governments. The same is true of the wider international community. Without universal access to energy services of adequate quality and quantity, countries cannot sustain dynamic growth, build more inclusive societies and accelerate progress towards eradicating poverty. When health systems are unable to provide preventive and curative services, people who are already vulnerable face heightened risks. And when shortages of electricity hamper schooling, children lose a chance to escape poverty and build secure livelihoods.

Viewed from an investment perspective, replacing existing fuels with modern energy represents a widely neglected market opportunity. Access to modern energy systems could cut household costs, with benefits for expenditure and investment in other areas. Just halving costs would save US\$5 billion for people living below US\$2.50, or US\$36 per household. Plausible price reductions of 80 per cent would raise these figures to US\$8 billion overall, US\$58 per household. How big is the investment gap that has to be closed if Africa is to transform its energy system? We estimate it at US\$55 billion a year.



DID YOU ASK ANY OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS?

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From which source was this data compiled?

This sounds like a very broad, sweeping statement.

This sentence seems to be appealing to readers' emotions rather than logic.

What exactly **IS** modern energy?
How is it defined?

Where do these calculations come from? How were they derived?

So why is this accurate?
Is it an "educated guess"? How did they arrive at this figure?