

The Africa Hospitality Investors Council (AHIC), powered by the Energy & Environment Alliance (EEA) announces Chair and Board Members

- **AHIC will be Africa's collective voice of capital committed to sustainable hospitality investment**
- **AHIC will operate as an independent body within the global EEA investors network**
- **The EEA will provide the legal, governance, and operational foundation that ensures AHIC's international credibility and compliance with global standards**

30 April 2026: AHIC today formally announced the appointment of its Chair and the confirmation of its founding Board:

Board Members with capital deployed across Africa's major markets:

- Kamal Bensouda, Atlas Hospitality Group
- Lara Dupre, Aichti Hotels
- Hamza Farooqui, Millat Group
- Olivier Granet, Kasada Capital Management
- Sofia Lopez Benhamida, RISMA
- Paul Mack, Latitude Hotels
- Julien Renaud, Onomo Hotels
- Jameel Verjee, CityBlue Hotels
- Graham Wood, V&A Waterfront

Olivier Granet, Managing Partner & Co-Chief Executive Officer of Kasada Capital Management, is appointed Chair of AHIC.

With this representation of leading hotel investors, AHIC is positioned as Africa's collective voice of capital committed to sustainable hospitality investment, ensuring the sector has a visible and credible presence in global investment dialogues.

AHIC will contribute a coordinated investor perspective to policy and market dialogue, improving the conditions for long-term investment, strengthening market confidence and supporting sustained economic value creation.

AHIC's mission in the fast-growing African hospitality sector is to help build the foundations for sustainable, bankable, and scalable growth by unlocking a deeper pipeline of projects as attractive investment opportunities across the continent - for Africa, by Africa.

With EEA, which comprises 50,000+ hotel assets with a global footprint at an approximate value of US\$400bn, AHIC will coordinate engagement directly between ministries of finance, planning, infrastructure, tourism, trade and investment, and investors in Africa's hospitality sector.

The EEA provides the legal, governance, and operational foundation that ensures AHIC's international credibility and compliance with global standards, while safeguarding its regional

autonomy. Through the EEA Capital Markets Committee, AHIC will help shape how sustainability, transition risk, and resilience are priced in African hospitality portfolios.

Africa's hotel and lodging sector is positioned for substantial growth, supported by powerful demographic trends and rising demand for quality tourism and hospitality assets, yet faces a number of issues such as fragmented regulatory frameworks, uneven risk–return visibility, gaps in infrastructure provision, and limited transparency and disclosure standards.

AHIC's mandate is to strengthen Africa's position within global capital allocation by:

- Aligning investor perspectives with national and regional priorities for trade, tourism and economic growth, strengthening clarity on where and how capital can be deployed.
- Informing policy and regulatory frameworks through coordinated market insight, reflecting the realities of investment, development and operations across African markets.
- Advancing transparency, comparability and governance standards, enabling more consistent assessment of risk and strengthening investor confidence
- Supporting cross-border alignment of investment conditions, engaging with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, including SADC, COMESA, AND ECOWAS to reduce fragmentation and improve market coherence

Hospitality assets form part of Africa's export and trade architecture and considered economic infrastructure. They generate foreign exchange, enable mobility, activate local supply chains and create employment at scale. As one of the largest employers in the continent and a significant source of revenue for national economies, the hospitality sector is key to Africa's successful development. AHIC is committed to ensuring its investments benefit all segments across the local hospitality value chain. This includes AHIC working with its members to deliver low-carbon buildings, enhancing the motivation, benefits and training for all employees, reducing consumption of energy, water and resources, and the efficient management of waste. AHIC is dedicated to supporting the development of local talent and positively impacting job creation with quality job opportunities, helping to transform lives of local communities.

AHIC will aim to deliver four strategic outcomes:

- Mobilise African and global capital through a coordinated investor voice.
- Influence government policy to unlock investable projects.
- De-risk capital deployment across the hotel value chain in Africa.
- Strengthen transparency, disclosure, and procurement systems.

AHIC will be a permanent, investor-led council, coordinating private capital alongside sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions and multilateral partners.

For further information:

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