

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Policy Framework in African Countries



Co-creation Hub Design Lab,
Kigali Rwanda

OCTOBER, 2025

AUTHORS

Maxwel Cheruiyot
Oluwaseun David Adepoju
Moses Kioko

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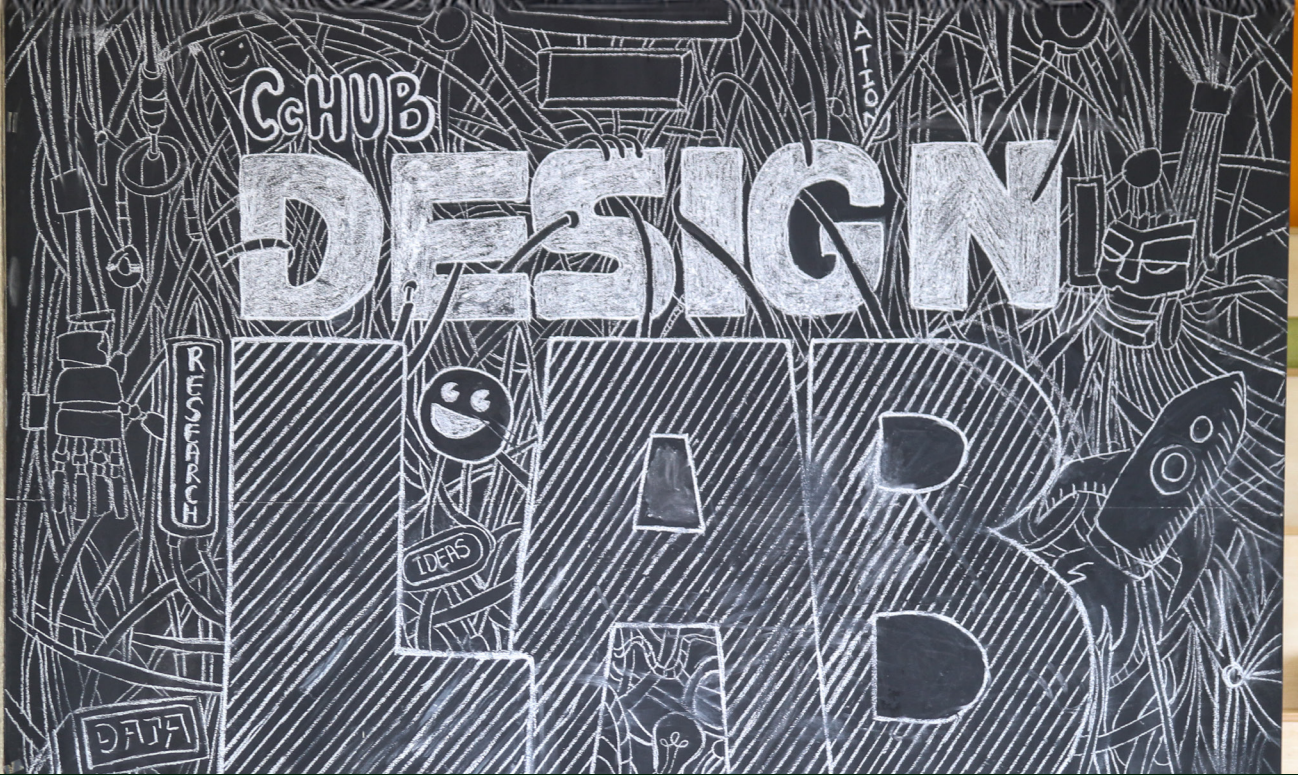
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About the CcHub Design Lab

We are a research and development lab innovating for social impact. We collaborate with global stakeholders to explore the application of technology to solve Africa's systemic problems in Public Health, Education, Governance and the Private Sector.

At the core of our philosophy is the belief that people are the heart and soul of our work. We don't merely design for our users; we design alongside them. From brainstorming revolutionary ideas to testing and prototyping solutions, people aren't just recipients; they are our partners. We embrace a human-centric approach to problem-solving, channeling our efforts into creating tangible value for individuals and communities. Design excellence, for us, is a fusion of innovation and social impact. We select projects based on their potential to spark transformative change.

Contact us

iHUB

First floor, Golden Plaza
KG 546 St.1 Kamatamu,
Kacyiru Kigali, Rwanda

T: +250 787 830 300

E: designlab@cchub.africa

W: www.cchubnigeria.com/designlab

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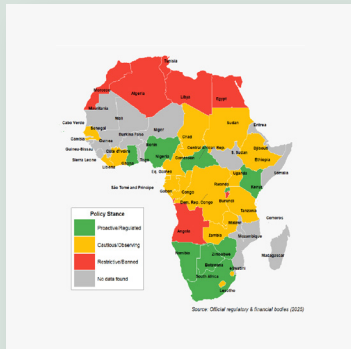


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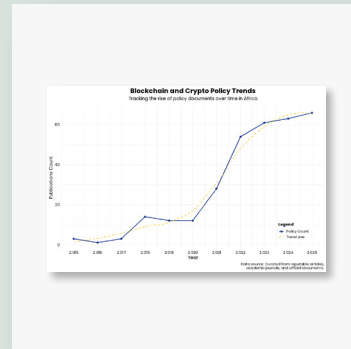


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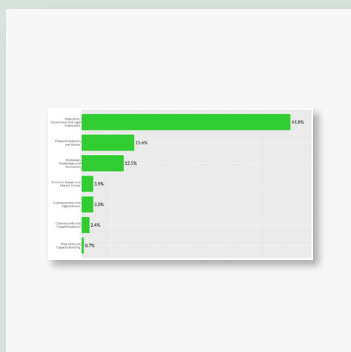


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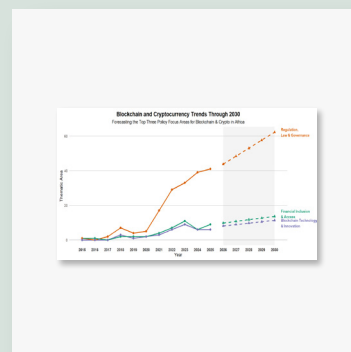
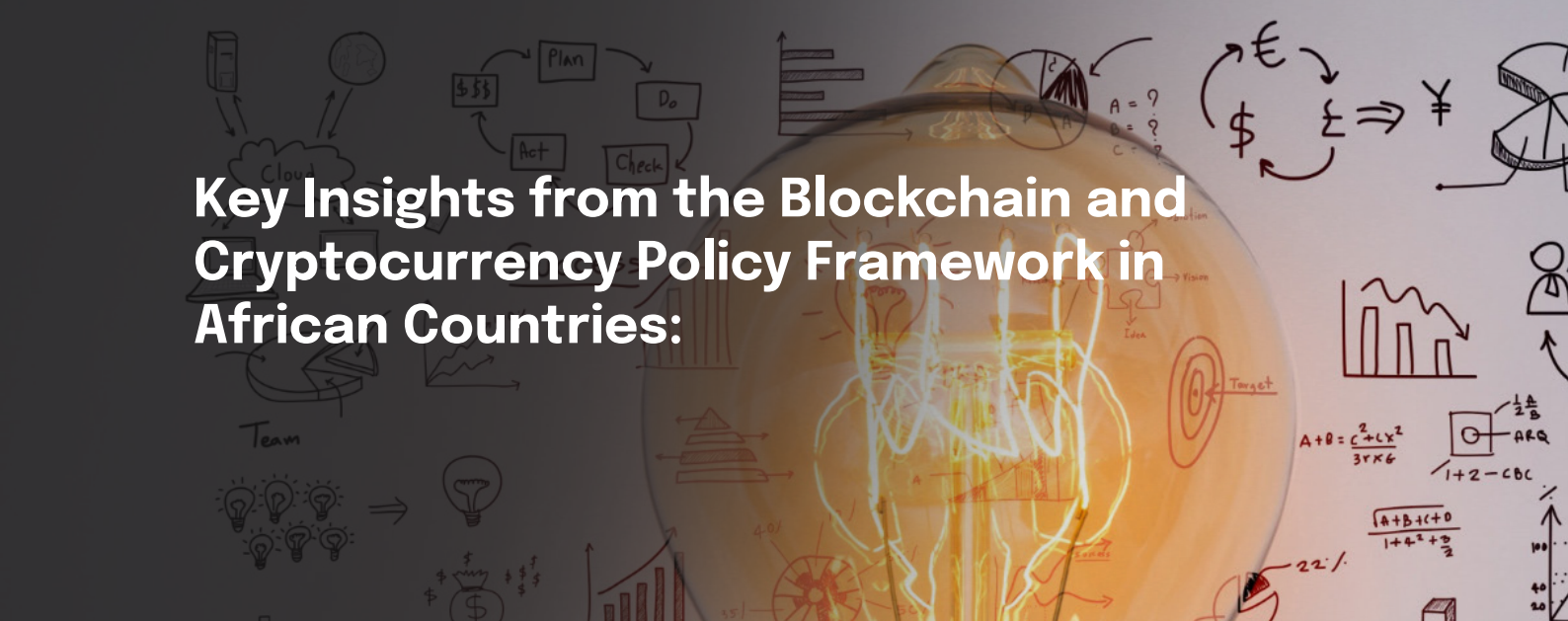


Figure 4:
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Key Insights from the Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Policy Framework in African Countries:

Limited Regulatory Framework:

Only 5 out of 42 African countries (11%) have active laws governing blockchain and cryptocurrency, indicating a young regulatory landscape.

Policy Gaps:

A major policy gap exists in cybersecurity, which has very few publications, posing a threat to the continent's financial systems.

Data Gaps:

There are significant data gaps, with 19 African countries lacking comprehensive industry regulation data, which hampers the understanding and development of the sector.

Focus on Regulation:

The most prominent policy focus is on "Regulation, Law, and Governance," with predictions indicating a peak of 62 policies by 2030, highlighting the importance of regulatory frameworks for future developments.

Increased Interest and Publications:

There has been a notable rise in publications and discussions surrounding blockchain and cryptocurrency from 2020 to early 2025, reflecting growing interest in the topic.

Diverse Approaches and Challenges:

African countries exhibit varied approaches to blockchain and cryptocurrency, from total bans (as seen in Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco) to proactive adoption of central bank digital currencies in Nigeria, presenting both opportunities and challenges in capitalizing on the technology.



Introduction

The global financial system is evolving due to the rise of digital assets and blockchain technology. This trend is particularly significant for African countries, as blockchain has the potential to transform economies, enhance financial inclusion, strengthen diplomatic financial relationships, and disrupt global markets. However, African nations face specific challenges regarding blockchain technology. Many lack comprehensive laws governing digital assets, and the policy environment across the continent is not uniform; it ranges from complete prohibition to varying degrees of regulation.

Furthermore, the benefits of blockchain technology can be undermined by serious infrastructural issues, such as inconsistent power supply and unreliable internet access. Sub-Saharan Africa, however, has made strides in mobile payments, indicating that fintech can play a vital role in bypassing traditional banking systems (IMF, 2019).

Looking ahead, policymakers will encounter new challenges. They must monitor technological advancements while simultaneously protecting consumers and maintaining economic stability (IMF, 2025). Without appropriate legal frameworks, the full potential of blockchain technology in Africa may remain unrealized.

This report aims to explore the political environment surrounding blockchain and cryptocurrency technologies in Africa, focusing on their potential to redefine the digital divide. Through an analysis of 317 blockchain and cryptocurrency policy documents from 42 African countries, we aim to understand the outlook for blockchain and cryptocurrency in Africa from 2015 to 2025. Based on curated data, we project the outlook of the blockchain policy ecosystem for the next 5 years, additionally, we identify prevailing themes, consequences, and various perspectives that influence this critical debate across the diverse continent of Africa.

Current State of Blockchain & Cryptocurrency in Africa: Adoption and Use Cases

Laws and regulations adopted by various African countries significantly shape the crypto and blockchain sector, leading to continuous changes that align with global technology trends in the industry. The regulatory environment is diverse: while some countries are demanding total bans or imposing partial restrictions, others are enacting favorable policies. This disparity has a substantial impact on the continent's blockchain ecosystem.

Countries like Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Mauritius are embracing blockchain technology to promote financial inclusion, digital innovation, and government efficiency. In 2015, Tunisia became the first African state to issue a digital currency under government sponsorship; however, the pace of¹ technological advancement in Tunisia has recently slowed down.

In 2021, Nigeria took a significant step by adopting the eNaira, a central bank digital currency. This

bold move aimed to ensure the country benefited from the technology while safeguarding consumers.

In Southern Africa, South Africa has made considerable progress in adopting blockchain technology. Cryptocurrency exchanges were initially established for individual and commercial use in the 2010s but were formally adopted in 2022. The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has also launched Project Khokha, a blockchain initiative designed for transferring funds between banks, and created a financial technology regulatory sandbox for innovators to test new financial products and services (South African Reserve Bank, 2022).

In Eastern Africa, Kenya is emerging as a key player in blockchain and cryptocurrency adoption. Although the country has limited banking options, it is one of the most popular nations for crypto adoption, largely due to high mobile money penetration, which facilitates the acceptance of cryptocurrency as

¹IMF, 2019 : *FinTech in Sub-Saharan African Countries: A Game Changer?*
IMF, 2025: *Digital Payment Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa*
World Bank, 2015 : *Financial Inclusion in Tunisia*

an alternative to traditional banking. Kenya has also been exploring blockchain applications in agriculture and remittances, as detailed in the Kenya National

Blockchain Taskforce Report, 2020. Meanwhile, Mauritius aims to become a regional leader through its digital asset framework introduced in 2021².

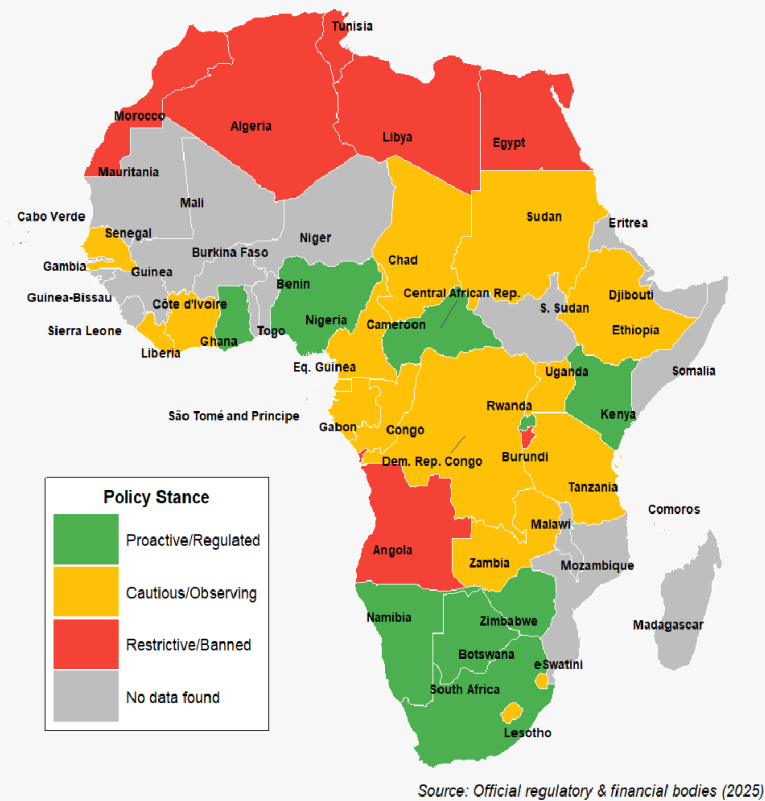


Figure 1: The state of cryptocurrency in Africa

Some African nations are approaching blockchain and cryptocurrency with skepticism. Countries such as Ethiopia, Uganda, Cameroon, and Senegal are being cautious in their approach. Instead of formulating clear policies, they are exploring both the risks and benefits of these technologies. Ethiopia, for example, is building a blockchain-based digital identity

platform, which is expected to transform how citizens interact with government services. Uganda, on the other hand, is investigating how blockchain can enhance remittances. Meanwhile, countries like Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia have taken a firmer stance by implementing total bans on cryptocurrency. Their decisions have been influenced by

²SARB, 2022: [Project Khokha](#)
KICTANET, 2020: [Kenya National Blockchain Strategy](#)
CBN, 2022: [Adoption of the eNaira: Issues and the Way Forward](#)
FSC, 2022: [Virtual Asset and Initial Token Offering Services Act](#)

concerns over capital flight, money laundering, and potential financial disruptions.

Despite these challenges, cryptocurrency is likely to have a significant impact on financial systems and economic stability in the future. According to Chainalysis (2022), factors such as price volatility and inadequate access to banking services are driving the continued informal use of cryptocurrency. In other parts of Africa, some countries remain in a state of legal uncertainty. Nations like Benin, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Togo have not taken a clear position regarding cryptocurrency or blockchain. While adoption occurs informally, often without government regulation, there is also a lack of legal consumer protections.

The diversity of the African continent means that different countries are approaching blockchain and cryptocurrency in various ways. Some are open to exploring and testing the technology across sectors such as financial services, agriculture, digital identity systems, and education.

Others maintain a neutral stance. This complex landscape is shaped by each nation's individual concerns. The primary challenge is striking an appropriate balance between promoting technological advancement and protecting consumers and economic systems. Proper implementation could make blockchain and cryptocurrency powerful tools for addressing the challenges facing Africa.

The Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Policy Landscape in Africa

Growth of blockchain and crypto publications in Africa.

The chart below shows the trend of Blockchain and Cryptocurrency publications in Africa from 2015 to 2025.

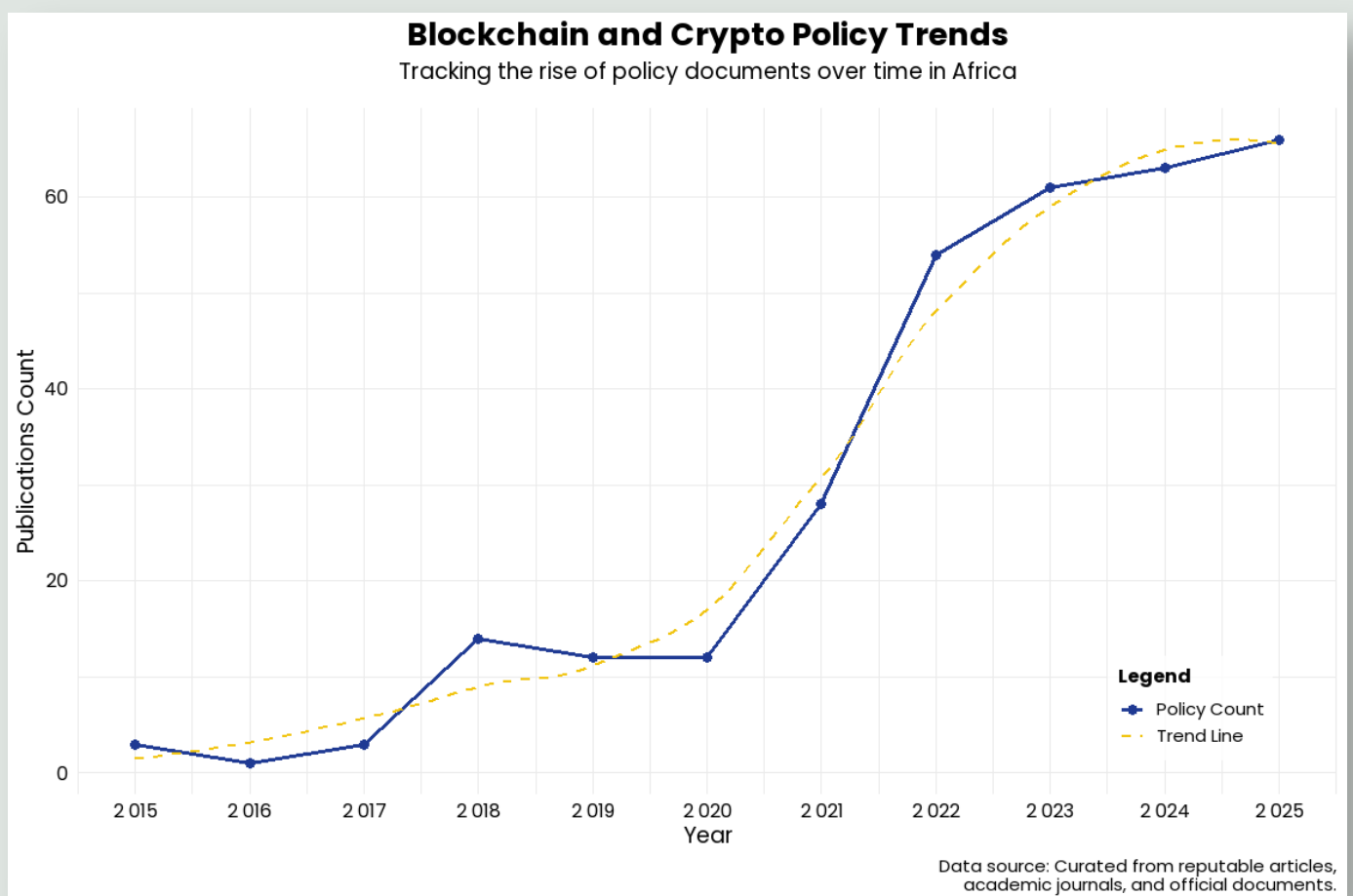


Figure 2: Blockchain and Crypto Publications on the Rise in Africa

In 2015, the landscape of blockchain technology in Africa was stark, with only three published works illuminating its potential. Awareness was minimal, and the concept was largely overlooked. However, a subtle transformation began in 2018, as the number of publications grew to 14. This marked a tentative recognition of blockchain's promise, even as it remained largely unfamiliar to many across the continent.

By the time 2021 arrived, the narrative had shifted dramatically. The count of scholarly works surged to 28, signaling an awakening to blockchain technology's vast capabilities. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a remarkable journey, with interest in blockchain skyrocketing as its applications and benefits became increasingly recognized.

From 2021 onwards, we witnessed an extraordinary explosion in publications, ultimately reaching a peak of 66 by 2025. This dramatic growth not only paints a vivid picture of the rising interest in blockchain but also reflects a broader shift in focus toward policy development and rigorous research. The spike in publications corresponds with a surge in the adoption of blockchain technology and a burgeoning dialogue around regulatory frameworks throughout Africa.

This evolving narrative suggests a maturing policy landscape, one that is likely to foster greater engagement and deeper exploration of blockchain's potential in the years to come. As stakeholders navigate this dynamic terrain, the future looks promising for innovative solutions and transformative initiatives across the continent.

Key focus areas in African blockchain and cryptocurrency publications

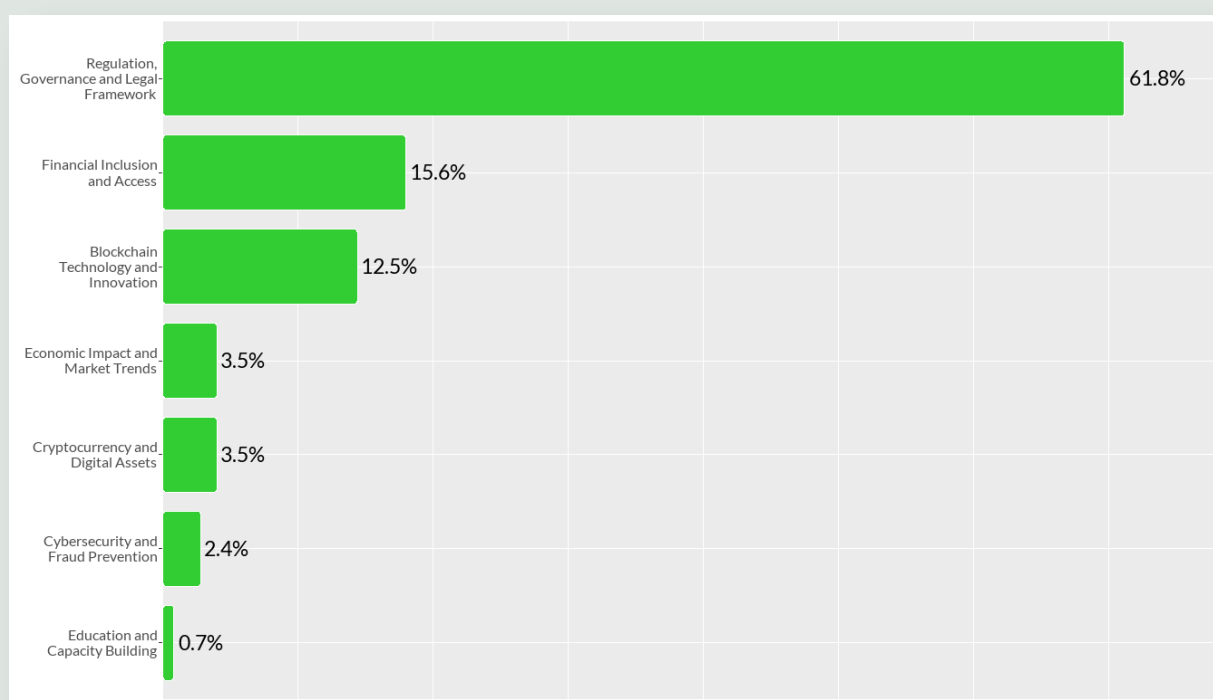


Figure 3: Themes in African Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Publications

The theme “Regulation, Law, and Governance” emerges as the most significant focus area, accounting for 61.8% of all publications. This highlights a substantial interest in regulation across the continent. Following this, “Financial Inclusion and Access” represents 15.6% of publications, indicating advancements in adoption and technology. The high volume of regulatory publications reflects ongoing policy development, while the emphasis on financial inclusion underscores its social impact.

In contrast, publications on cybersecurity and fraud prevention

are alarmingly low, at just 2.4%. This lack of attention poses a considerable threat to the continent's financial systems, as the potential for financial crimes increases. The data presents a clear overview of the policy landscape in Africa, revealing a significant gap in cybersecurity regulation.

African countries must prioritize the development of cybersecurity policies to safeguard consumers against cybercrime. Overall, it appears that Africa is in the early stages of adoption, which helps explain the current focus on formulating regulatory policies.

Modeling Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Policy Trends in Africa

This analysis examines the growth of Key policy focus areas in Africa from 2025 to 2030. We used historical data obtained from reputable articles, journals, and publications on blockchain and cryptocurrency in Africa from 2015 to 2025. The data was curated from reputable sources, cleaned, and analysed. We then used the data to forecast the future trends of the policy

landscape. The models used were the Facebook Prophet model for the “Financial Inclusion and Access” and “Blockchain Technology and Innovation”. For the “Regulation, Law and Governance”, we used the Prophet model with Arima to address autocorrelation in residuals. We focused on the top three policy focus areas to get better modelling power.

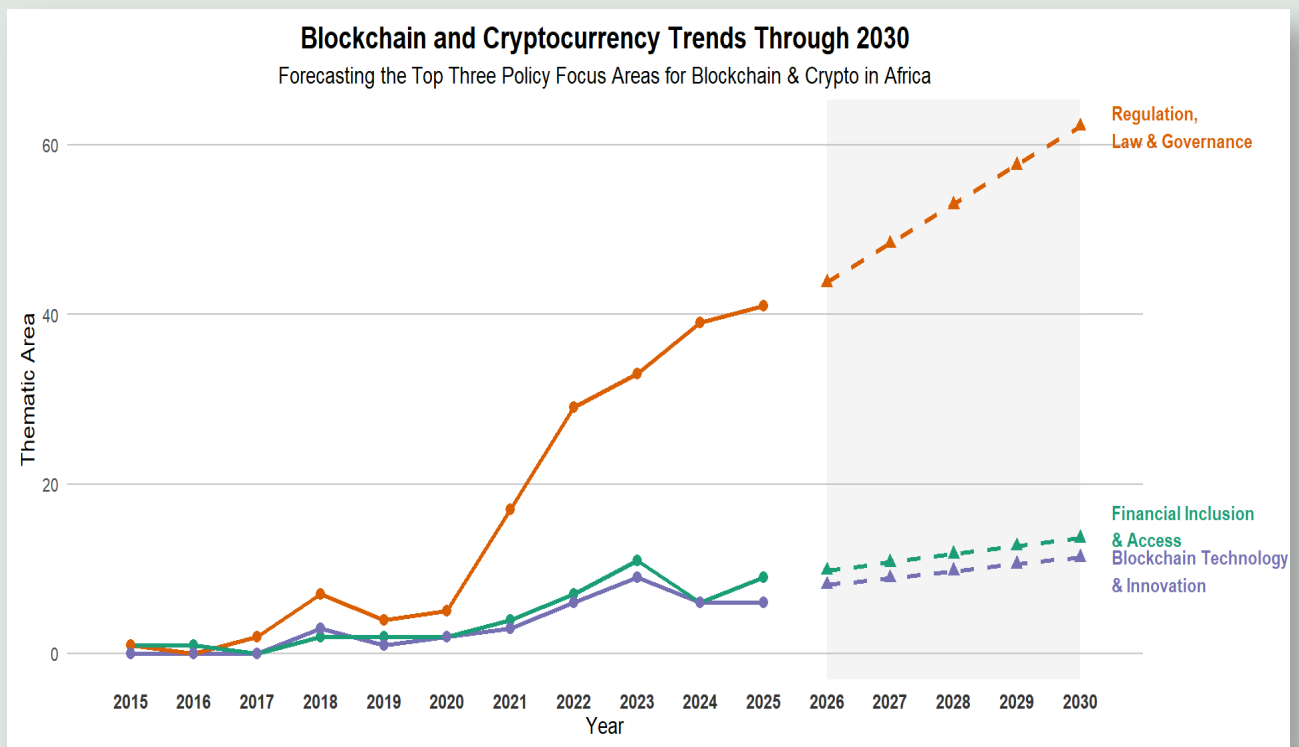


Figure 4: Blockchain and cryptocurrency trends through 2030

The trend of historical data from 2015 to 2025, along with a projected trend line for the years leading to 2030, reveals significant insights about policy development in Africa. It is evident that "Regulation, Law, and Governance" is the most prominent area of focus, with expectations for this category to peak at 62 policies in 2030. This indicates a growing emphasis on regulatory frameworks aimed at protecting consumers over the next five years.

Following this, "Financial Inclusion and Access" is predicted to reach a

peak of 13 policies by 2030, which, although low, shows a positive upward trend. Similarly, "Blockchain Technology and Innovation" is expected to have only 11 policies by 2030, demonstrating a slow adoption of blockchain technology across the continent.

These trends suggest that Africa's policy landscape is evolving and is anticipated to grow in complexity and maturity. It is crucial for stakeholders to understand which areas to prioritize, as this will help Africa position itself as a leader in blockchain technology on a global scale.

Conclusion

The analysis indicates that Africa's policy landscape is complex and still developing. This is evident in the continent's approach to cryptocurrency, where some countries embrace the technology, others are cautious, and some remain indifferent. The main areas of policy focus are regulation, law, and governance, highlighting Africa's readiness to adopt this technology while prioritizing consumer protection. Such measures are expected to positively impact investment and acceptance of cryptocurrencies.

Although the outlook is promising, there is a pressing need for education and technical support to help countries establish effective regulatory frameworks. The forecast suggests ongoing growth in policy development, particularly in regulation. Therefore, it is essential to adapt to changing market dynamics and shifts within the sector. As blockchain technology matures across the continent, effective regulation of cryptocurrencies will be crucial to unlocking Africa's full growth potential.



Recommendation

Africa's policy environment is complicated and varied. From the analysis above, a regulatory system is needed to protect consumers and to promote investor trust. Nations should develop technical knowledge to allow for capacity building for the formulation of informed policies. This will support uniform regulation across countries

and this will improve cross-border collaboration. In terms of blockchain technology, Africa has tremendous possibilities. Regulation, acceptance, and education should be Africa's top concerns; doing so will open many doors to address its problems through the cutting edge technology.