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## EVALUATION AT THE HEART OF AFRICAN ROAD PERFORMANCE

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# SUMMARY OF THE INTERVENTION

- 1. Context & RAM Trilemma**   
Quality ↔ Accessibility ↔ Viability: the structural challenge of African networks
- 2. Current situation**  
71% without RAMS, 60% financial gap: an alarming diagnosis
- 3. Coordination Mechanisms**  
3 strategic nodes: Sponsor, Coordinator, Financer
- 4. Data & Post-Aid Funding**  
42% gap uncovered: local evidence as leverage for the AfDB/WADB
- 5. AFERA Innov Academy & MRFER Master's Program**   
Flagship program, 120 ECTS credits, headquarters in Nairobi, trained African elite
- 6. Recommendations & Call to Action**   
4 strategic priorities to transform evidence into sustainable regional impact

# CONTEXT AND RAM TRILEMMA



Three imperatives in constant tension, impossible to maximize simultaneously without strategic arbitration.



**20%** Only 20% of RMFs integrate climate resilience (Source SSATP 2026: climate resilience remains absent).



- **Regional coherence:** a structural imperative (Without policy harmonization, each network remains an island).



- **Fragmentation of data and practices** (Heterogeneous methodologies between countries make any comparison impossible).



- **Post-aid pressure:** financing without dependence (The scarcity of external aid imposes financial sovereignty).

**Key question: 'What is the real diagnosis?' (Without sovereign and shared evaluation, our networks remain operated blindly).**

***A sovereign diagnosis, an essential foundation for viability.***

# CURRENT SITUATION: THE PARADOX OF HERITAGE

**71%** RMF without RAMS



The majority of road funds lack a road asset management system.

**1.3%** of GDP for infrastructure



Africa devotes 1.3% of its GDP to infrastructure, which is far below critical needs.

ECOWAS Coverage:

**16%**



Only 16% of the regional network benefits from structured and harmonized monitoring.

**17%**



Only 17% of strategic corridors undergo an IRAP security assessment

Funding gap:

**60%**



The resources mobilized cover less than 40% of the actual maintenance needs.

Cross-border corridors: a blind spot



Regional flows remain outside the scope of compartmentalized national assessments

*Towards enhanced coordination to break down strategic barriers...*

# COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND THE 3 NODES



## Baseline Survey SSATP/EU 2026

- Mapping of 15 road funds: a reference framework for harmonizing regional assessment practices



## RRAM Pillar: Resilience & Security

- Integration of climate and road safety within a regional asset management framework (SSATP Pillar 4)



## iRAP: adopted international standard

- Comparative assessment of the quality of African roads via the iRAP Global protocols



## SPONSOR: joint political mandate

- Formalized commission from the CER, States, and AFERA to legitimize each transnational assessment



## COORDINATOR: harmonized indicators

- Common core of regional KPIs and shared data platforms between member countries



## FINANCE: regional pooling mechanism

- A pooled and predictable budget to reduce dependence on ad hoc external funding

*Towards concrete synergies and autonomous financing.*

**ARMFA**

# DATA AND FUNDING: THE POST-AID TURNING POINT

## FUNDING GAP: 42% UNCOVERED Maintenance requirements (ARMFA 2024)



**Structural gap and dependence:** 42% of maintenance needs remain unfunded, revealing a structural dependence on external aid.



**Regional financial autonomy:** Pooling national resources through regional trust funds to guarantee predictability and budgetary independence of African RMFs.



**Evidence as leverage AfDB/WADB:** Evidence-based data is the decisive argument for mobilizing African development banks and securing sovereign financing.



**Increased national mobilization strategy:** Diversify sources: fuel taxes, tolls, heavy goods vehicle fees and public-private partnerships to reduce the 42% gap.



**Scarcity of international aid:** The gradual withdrawal of traditional donors necessitates an urgent transition to endogenous financing mechanisms.



**Data = decision-making sovereignty:** A robust data system allows states to steer their investment priorities without depending on the external agendas of partners.

***TOWARDS ENDOGENOUS AND REGIONAL FUNDING***

# AFERA INNOV ACADEMY AND MRFER MASTER'S PROGRAM

## Hub of Excellence: Nairobi, Kenya

Strategic headquarters of the AFERA Innov Academy, at the heart of the African road infrastructure network.

## MRFER Master's program: flagship program



Mobilizing Resources and Financing Road Maintenance — training the African elite in the sector.

## 120 ECTS: a rigorous curriculum

Academic volume of 120 ECTS credits, guaranteeing a level of excellence recognized internationally.

## Target audience: RMF decision-makers and managers

Programme designed for senior managers of African Road Maintenance Funds and their institutional partners.

## Approach: RBM and financial sovereignty

Results-Based Management and regional financial autonomy as educational foundations of the MRFER Master's program.

## Vision: To train Africa's asphalt elite

Investing in African human capital to ensure the sustainability and performance of the continent's road networks.

*Training the elite to ensure the future of African roads.*

# NAIROBI-DAKAR ACADEMIC ECOSYSTEM



## CESAG Dakar — Managerial Anchoring

Excellence in public management and financial governance of road funds.



## AFRALTI Nairobi — Digital Innovation

Strengthening IT skills applied to infrastructure.



## ENSTP & CERFER — Field Expertise

Technical partners for practical training and applied research in road civil engineering.



## KIHBT Nairobi — High-Performance Road Engineering

Specialized technical training in the engineering and maintenance of African road networks.



## Nairobi-Dakar axis — Synergy Continental

East-West academic corridor structuring the MRFER Master's program in 120 ECTS.



## Shared Knowledge Governance

Inter-institutional co-certification to guarantee the quality and regional recognition of diplomas.

*Continental synergies for sustainable excellence.*

# THE 4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND 4 QUESTIONS

## 4 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



**R1 — Continental Trust Fund** Create a pooled AfDB/WADB envelope to finance road maintenance without external dependence.



**R2 — Digital & Sovereign Data** Deploy a regional RAMS data platform shared between the 35 ARMFA member countries.



**R3 — Operational RRAM Pillars:** Integrating climate resilience and iRAP safety within a harmonized regional road management framework.



**R4 — AFERA Innov Academy & MRFER Master's Program** Training an African elite in resource mobilization via 120 ECTS credits, headquarters in Nairobi.

## 4 STRATEGIC QUESTIONS



**Q1 — Who controls the "African agenda"?** Sovereignty: preventing donors from dictating evaluation priorities to the detriment of local needs.



**Q2 — How to guarantee results?** Link each recommendation to a monitored action plan, with shared political responsibility between CER/States/ARMFA.



[Q3 — Additional Strategic Theme] Explore another critical issue for the regional agenda. (Content to be defined).



[Q4 — Impact and Long-Term Perspectives] Anticipate future challenges and opportunities for scaling up. (Content to be defined).

***Towards a future of sovereignty and innovation for African roads.***



# CALL FOR PAPERS AND CONCLUSION

*"Investing in African elite to preserve our asphalt"*

— ARMFA's strategic vision for 2026 and beyond



**A Sovereign Assessment: A Pillar of Regional Trust**

Credibility of RMFs | Corridor Integration



**Call to States, RECs and Partners: Co-investment & Co-governance**

Co-design | Co-pilot | Autonomous system



**AFERA Lab: Collaborative Research Platform**

Co-producing knowledge | Road performance

Dr Ali Alkassoum — ES AFERA/ARMFA, Nairobi

**AFERA Innov**

SSATP 2026

AfDB 2025

IRAP 2025

ECOWAS 2023

ARMFA 2024

Extend the dialogue post - TREPP 2026 for concrete partnerships.

[www.armfa.info](http://www.armfa.info)