Proof of Achievement M1 Report

Project No. 1100072 Cardano Summit 2025. Welcome to Africa

CATH and Wada
March 24, 2024

Milestone 1: Stakeholder Engagement and Initial Consensus

Milestone Outputs: Five project team and stakeholder meetings. The objective is to conduct three sessions focusing on roadmap discussions and the identification of at least five African countries capable of hosting the Cardano Summit 2025.

Evidence of Milestone Completion: The documentation for this milestone will comprise a report detailing the three Project Team meeting sessions, a list featuring the five African countries under consideration, written justifications for their selection, and the identification of the most suitable candidate. This report will be accessible on the Catalyst Africa Townhall's website, the dedicated project website, and the social media accounts associated with the Catalyst Africa Townhall initiative. Email copies sent to the relevant stakeholders involved in this project will also be made available.

Project proofs of work and team meetings

(Most of these proofs are confidential at this point and not for wide circulation. Please request access to view)

Project team meeting dates: March 4, 11, 18, 23.
- Meeting Notes
- Team communications (See evidence in google drive)
- Meeting recordings (See evidence in google drive)
- Stakeholder Engagement
    - Meeting with Cardano Foundation (See evidence in google drive)
    - Bridge Builders - Yoram (See evidence in google drive)
    - Global Policy House - Michelle (See evidence in google drive)
    - Catalyst Africa Town Hall session
    - Wada Forum
    - Tweet targeted at Cardano Community (See evidence in google drive)
- Website page: https://www.catalystafrica.org/cardano2025-lobbying-africa/
- Working document with extensive pro-con lists per country

Top 6 countries under consideration with justification

Listed in alphabetical order: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa

Cameroon

Cameroon holds a strategic location within Africa located on the border of West and Central Africa, in addition, both English and French languages are spoken, making it largely accessible to the international community. There is political stability in the major cities, and the recent hosting success of the Africa Cup of Nations in 2021, give us some great assurances. That being said, we will need to investigate in more depth to reassure the community and establish whether the safety concerns in other regions, not under consideration, might negatively affect hosting such a high profile event.

Cities under consideration: Douala, Yaounde Douala– Though not the capital, Douala is the largest city and the commercial capital of Cameroon, making it a strategic choice for hosting international business and tech events. In addition the Wada Cameroon hub is located in Douala (for these reasons). However, we will still consider both cities before narrowing our decision down to one.

Infrastructure: There are ample event venues, hotels, and restaurants in both Douala and Yaounde that satisfy international standards. High speed internet connection is also easily available in major cities, with various options for back-up internet. Generators are also common to have at different establishments to mitigate less reliable city power.

Logistics: Cameroon has two international airports in Douala and Yaounde. Both cities also have numerous bus travel agencies with VIP air conditioned coaches that could be rented for coordinated travel between venues, or for airport pick-ups for example. Many cities in Cameroon are also using a few different ride share services that make travelling around town safe and easy. As alternatives to the less secure taxi, or moto-taxi, international travellers may prefer using app based ride shares such as Yango or Gozem. Another logistical consideration is the ease of entry for international travellers. Certain nationalities will need a visa to travel to Cameroon, however the process for granting visas has improved dramatically in the last few years, and is done online through a simple e-visa process, with reliably quick turnaround.

Safety: Although Cameroon overall has some political unrest with the Anglophone crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions the danger is limited to those areas affected. The actual conflict has calmed down in recent years, and the two cities we are considering as potential hosts are located in different regions where there is no threat.

Other: We have strong ties to the country through the Wada Cameroon hub, with ample personnel on the ground to both assist in the research and eventually support with hosting such an event.

Ghana

Ghana is a country near and dear to our hearts with a majority of team members originating from the country. This gives our team ample tools to thoroughly explore the validity of offering a highly successful event here in 2025. CATH members alongside Wada have ample experience hosting large and small events including a successful international gathering for the CIP 1694 workshops last year in Accra. Another convincing factor is that Accra is considered one of the safest cities in West Africa, and we feel that it would be an excellent option for a 2025 Cardano Summit.

City under consideration: Accra– The capital city is the political and economic heart of Ghana, with a burgeoning tech scene and the infrastructure needed for hosting international conferences.

Infrastructure: Ghana has been investing in infrastructure development, including modern conference facilities, hotels, and transportation networks. These amenities can support the logistics of organizing a successful summit.

Logistics: Ghana has an international airport in the city of Accra that is easily accessible from the city. Many international travellers will require a visa for entry but the process is not too difficult or time consuming.

Safety: Ghana is known for its stable democracy, making it a safe and secure destination for international events. The peaceful political environment reduces the risk of disruptions during the summit.

Other: We have strong ties to the country through the multiple Wada Ghana hubs, and four prominent members of CATH and Wada from the country: Afia, Daniel, Richmond, and Mercy, with ample personnel on the ground to both assist in the research and eventually support with hosting such an event.

Kenya

Kenya already has a strong Cardano presence through IOG and Emurgo connections. Nairobi is well known in Africa for its excellent infrastructure, and home to a wide variety of restaurants, hotels and event centres, making it an excellent option for a Cardano Summit.

Cities under consideration: Nairobi

Infrastructure: Nairobi, the capital city, serves as a major economic hub in East Africa, offering modern infrastructure, world-class conference facilities, and a vibrant business environment conducive to networking and investment opportunities.

Logistics: Like many developing countries, Kenya may have bureaucratic hurdles and red tape that can slow down the planning and execution of large-scale events. Navigating these processes effectively will require careful coordination and local expertise.

Safety: While Kenya has made significant strides in improving security, there are still occasional incidents of crime and terrorism, particularly in border regions and urban centers. Ensuring the safety of summit participants may require additional security measures and resources.

Other: Kenya has emerged as a leader in technological innovation in Africa, particularly in sectors such as mobile payments (e.g., M-Pesa) and renewable energy. This innovation ecosystem can provide easy access to mobile banking and payments from the other participating countries.

Nigeria

Nigeria has recently hosted a wide range of international events and hos proven itself as a viable option for the Summit, being a trusted business hub in West Africa. There are security perceptions of the country that we will need to carefully observe and consider through further research as to the possibility of hosting a Cardano Summit here in 2025.

Cities under consideration: Lagos

Infrastructure: Event centres and locations with high standards of infrastructure and locations that meet global standards

Logistics: Ease of accessibility, due to high daily international flights from different locations. Lagos, in particular, is notorious for its traffic congestion, which could pose logistical challenges for event participants.

Safety: While all major cities in Nigeria are very safe, Nigeria has a poor safety perception due to events in the past.

Other: Nigeria is the country in Africa having the highest blockchain adoption. We also have very close ties to Nigeria through project member Ubio, prominent member of CATH.

Rwanda

Although we have limited connections already in place to explore this country further, our team decided that Rwanda could be an excellent option for the 2025 Summit that we would like to put resources towards investigating further. We will leverage our partnerships with organisations like Global Policy House, who have experience hosting events in the area, to gain access to local inside information on the country, and develop our analysis further.

Cities under consideration: Kigali

Infrastructure: The country has invested significantly in infrastructure development, including modern conference facilities, hotels, and transportation networks. Kigali, the capital city, offers world-class amenities suitable for hosting large-scale events.

Logistics: Rwanda's central location within Africa makes it easily accessible for participants from various regions to come and partake in the summit. Its proximity to East African countries enhances connectivity and facilitates participation from neighbouring nations.

Safety: Rwanda is known for its safety and security, with low crime rates compared to many other countries. This provides assurance to participants and ensures a secure environment for the summit, without having to worry about safety and security while on tours.

Other: While English is widely spoken in Rwanda, the country's official languages also include Kinyarwanda and French. Language diversity could present communication challenges for participants not proficient in these languages.

South Africa

South Africa is well known as an ideal vacation destination for foreigners coming to Africa. The advanced infrastructure and rich technological ecosystem make it an obvious candidate for consideration of hosting the 2025 Cardano Summit.

Cities under consideration: Cape Town

Infrastructure: South Africa, particularly cities like Johannesburg and Cape Town, has advanced infrastructure supporting large international events, including world-class convention centers and telecommunications. The country faces challenges with its electricity supply, including load shedding, which could impact conference operations.

Logistics: International Airport, and easy visa process.

Safety: High crime rates in certain areas may concern international attendees regarding personal safety. South Africa experiences political and economic fluctuations that could affect the planning and execution of international events.

Other: We have a strong local presence with trusted contacts on the ground through a Wada Hub, and active CATH members.