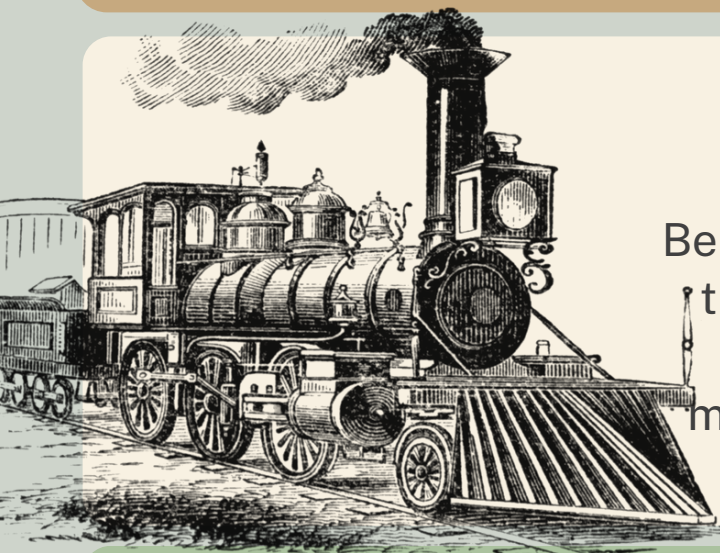




The Lobito Corridor: A New Axis in the Global Power Race

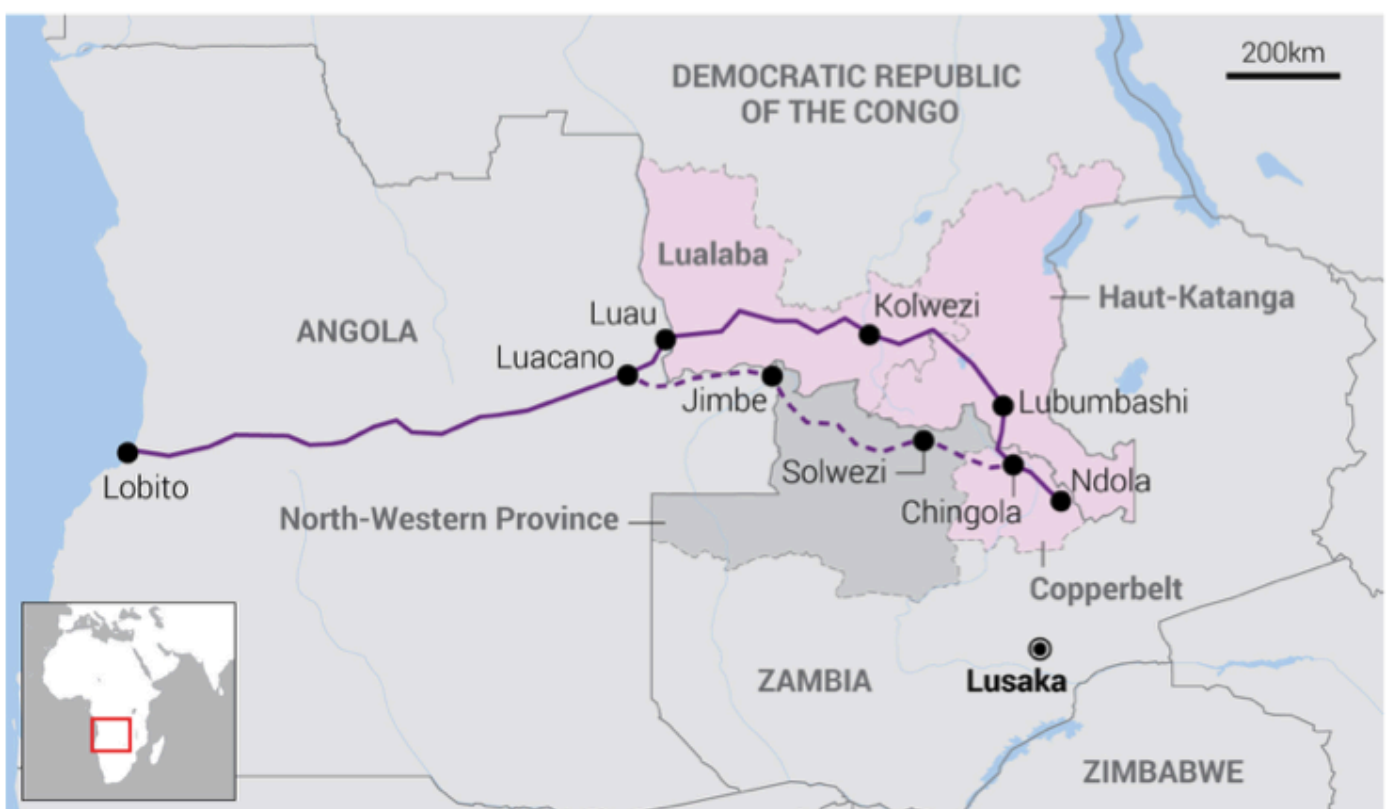
The Lobito Corridor is reshaping the global race for Africa's minerals. By linking Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo directly to Angola's Atlantic port, the corridor promises faster, cheaper export routes and a strategic alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. With U.S. and EU financial backing, it is not just infrastructure but a geopolitical power play to redefine influence across Africa's critical mineral frontier.



BACKGROUND

Built by the Portuguese as the Benguela Railway and finished in 1931, the Lobito Corridor was once Central Africa's main route for exporting minerals, giving landlocked countries access to the Atlantic Ocean.

— Lobito Development Corridor - - - Other proposed corridor route ■ Copper belt region



Source: [The Lobito Corridor Investment Promotion Authority \("LCIPA"\)](#)

CHALLENGES



Securing adequate funding for large-scale infrastructure projects demands significant upfront capital investment.



There are insufficient volumes of critical mineral exports to justify the construction of the Zambian portion of the railway.



Minimal demand for unrefined critical minerals from the EU and US, as they purchase processed intermediate components from China



Coordinating policies, regulations, and standards across borders is complex and often results in delays.

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