

Can West African Telecom be used without fiber optic cables



Article Overview

Yes, West African telecom services can operate without fiber optic cables by relying on mobile networks, satellite links, and wireless technologies.

Fiber Optic Role in West Africa

Fiber optic cables, such as the West Africa Cable System (WACS), provide high-capacity, high-speed internet connectivity across the region, linking countries to global networks and supporting urban broadband infrastructure . Fiber is essential for fixed broadband services, Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH), and enterprise connectivity, offering stable and fast internet for streaming, cloud computing, and digital services . However, fiber deployment is expensive and often limited in rural or remote areas due to high costs and challenging terrain .

Alternatives to Fiber

Telecom operators in West Africa increasingly use mobile networks and wireless technologies to provide connectivity without relying on fiber:

- 3G, 4G, and 5G Mobile Networks: Mobile networks cover large areas and can deliver internet access to both urban and rural populations. 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) is emerging as a cost-effective alternative to fiber, offering high-speed broadband where fiber is unavailable .
- Satellite Internet: Satellite services can provide connectivity in remote regions wh...

Article Content

The next frontier for African telcos | McKinsey

A new era of growth awaits African telcos, but to reach the continent's next 500 million users, operators will need bold

Africa Telecoms Infrastructure in 2022 – Many Possibilities

Welcome to the 9th annual review of telecommunications infrastructure development in Africa. This edition containing

Broadband Connectivity: Building Block for Africa's Digital Economy

IFC's Broadband Connectivity Portfolio EASSY SPV / WIOCC The East African Cable System (EASSy) is a 10,000km undersea fibre

Africa's Fiber Optic Paradox: 77 Submarine Cables Yet Underconnected

Without strong terrestrial networks, all that bandwidth at the coast can't really reach most people. Terrestrial Fiber:

The Impact of Fiber Optic Networks on Africa's Digital Landscape

Ultimately, fiber optic networks are not just a technological upgrade; they are a pathway to a more connected,

Fiber-Optic Cables Connect Africa to the Digital Economy

Fiber-optic cables have the potential to revolutionize Internet connectivity on a continent where three-quarters of the

How Pricing, Fibre & 5G Collided in African Telecoms in 2025

Meanwhile, fiber-optic infrastructure extended rapidly along coastlines and into urban centers, and 5G networks

Beyond the Signal: Why Africa's Next Telecom Era Will Be Built

Beyond fiber trenches, data centers, spectrum auctions, and AI model training pipelines, the next generation of

Fiber-optic leap bridges African digital divide

Though tech giants have invested heavily in high-performance digital infrastructure — more cell towers, faster

African Telecoms in 2026: Navigating Disruption and

Disruption Fosters Emerging Technology The disruption of Africa's fragmented terrestrial

Optical Fibre Cable: Working, Applications & More

Innovation of Optical fibre cable(OFC) has kept demand rolling for high internet speeds with high quality and

Africa Telecoms Infrastructure in 2021 – Many Possibilities

If fibre access costs can be brought in line with costs elsewhere in the world, fibre optic infrastructure will have at least

Obstacles of submarine and inland cables in Africa

Submarine networks and cables are the lifelines of global communication and digital markets, enabling seamless data

Submarine communications cable

7 – Petroleum jelly 8 – Optical fibers Submarine cables are laid using special cable layer ships, such as the modern René Descartes

Can West African Telecom be used without fiber optic cables

In the long term, the government aims to cover a total of 3,300 kilometers with fiber optic cables. Nine other municipalities will be

Djoliba, the unified network boosting connectivity in

The end of 2020 coincides with the commissioning of the first African fibre optic backbone,

Internet Infrastructure in Africa

While countries with a direct connection to submarine cables enjoy the benefits of high-speed internet such as higher internet use

The “Ups and Downs” of Deploying Fiber: Aerial vs.

Fiber optic cables are now the gold standard for sending information quickly and securely.

African Internet Undersea Cables: Retracing History

African undersea cables epitomize more than technological infrastructure; they embody a

Are there alternatives to building out fibre in Africa?

In terms of fibre deployment, many African countries face hurdles in terms of investment, logistics or both – so how

The State of Broadband in Africa 2025

The Eastern Africa Submarine System (EASSy) is a 10,000km submarine cable system along the east coast of Africa, with 9 landing

Copper Networks and FTTH in Africa

An explanation on Copper Networks and FTTH deployment in Africa. It highlights countries lagging in deployment and

Africa Bandwidth Maps

Africa's total inventory of terrestrial fibre optic transmission networks passed the milestone of 1 million route-kms during 2018. By

West Africa's \$150bn digital economy at risk without cable resilience

West Africa's digital economy, valued at up to \$150 billion annually, faces growing risk as weak submarine cable

Fibre Optic Networks Reshaping Africa's Digital Future

Challenges remain — from regulatory bottlenecks, cable vandalism, and high user costs — but the momentum is

The State of Broadband in Africa 2025

In the long term, the government aims to cover a total of 3,300 kilometers with fiber optic cables. Nine other municipalities will be

Why 2025 marked a turning point for African telecoms

The answer remains unresolved. What is clear is that 2025 marked a structural turning point. The era of easy

SEACOM (African cable system)

The cable is a loose tube design that determines the amount and relative location along the transmission

Internet Infrastructure in Africa

The advances in fibre-optic technology also give Africa a chance to leapfrog over the old hardware to

2024 West Africa Submarine Cable Outage Report

Learn about the West Africa submarine cable outage, and its impact on Internet connectivity in 13 countries.

Submarine Cable Map

TeleGeography's comprehensive and regularly updated interactive map of the world's major submarine cable systems

Subsea cables, fibre, 4G and 5G: Africa is finally structuring the ...

As cloud and AI giants accelerate their arrival, Africa is in parallel consolidating the critical layers of its connectivity:

From Fiber to 5G: Mapping Africa's Journey Toward High-Speed

Initiatives like Google's Umoja project, a 13,000-km subsea fiber optic cable linking Kenya to Australia, could enhance

The Evolution of Internet Technology in Africa: Why Fibre Optic is the ...

The introduction of fibre optic technology is the next major milestone in Africa's internet evolution. Unlike traditional

African Telecommunications Infrastructure in 2023

MEDUSA cable connecting Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt with European countries; and, West Africa cable that

With 77 Undersea Cables, Africa's Internet Boom Stops at the

The expansion of fiber-optic networks across Africa is set to boost productivity, education, and digital inclusion. Yet the continent

Africa Telecom Transmission Map

Africa's total inventory of terrestrial fibre optic transmission networks passed the milestone of 1 million route-kms during 2018. By

What Infrastructure Supports Connectivity in Africa?

According to a report by AFR-IX Telecom, more than 1.2 million kilometers of fiber have been deployed across the continent.

West Africa Cable System (WACS) – Submarine Cable System

Ultra-high capacity fibre optic cable system linking Europe, West Africa, and South Africa

Africa's connectivity gap: Can a map tell the story?

To reach universal access, it is critical to assess the specific connectivity gaps and monitor the progress of digital

From Fiber to 5G: Mapping Africa's Journey Toward High-Speed

Across Africa, the pursuit of high-speed internet has become a continental mission, one marked by bold investments,

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