ARETE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CONSULTING

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The First African AI Capability Benchmark

A dataset of 352 professionals across the continent

PUBLISHED	15 November 2026
ASSESSMENT WINDOW	23 May to 9 November 2026
SAMPLE	n = 352
INSTRUMENT	12-Pillar AI Readiness Assessment, mapped to the 5-Level African AI Fluency Scale

48%

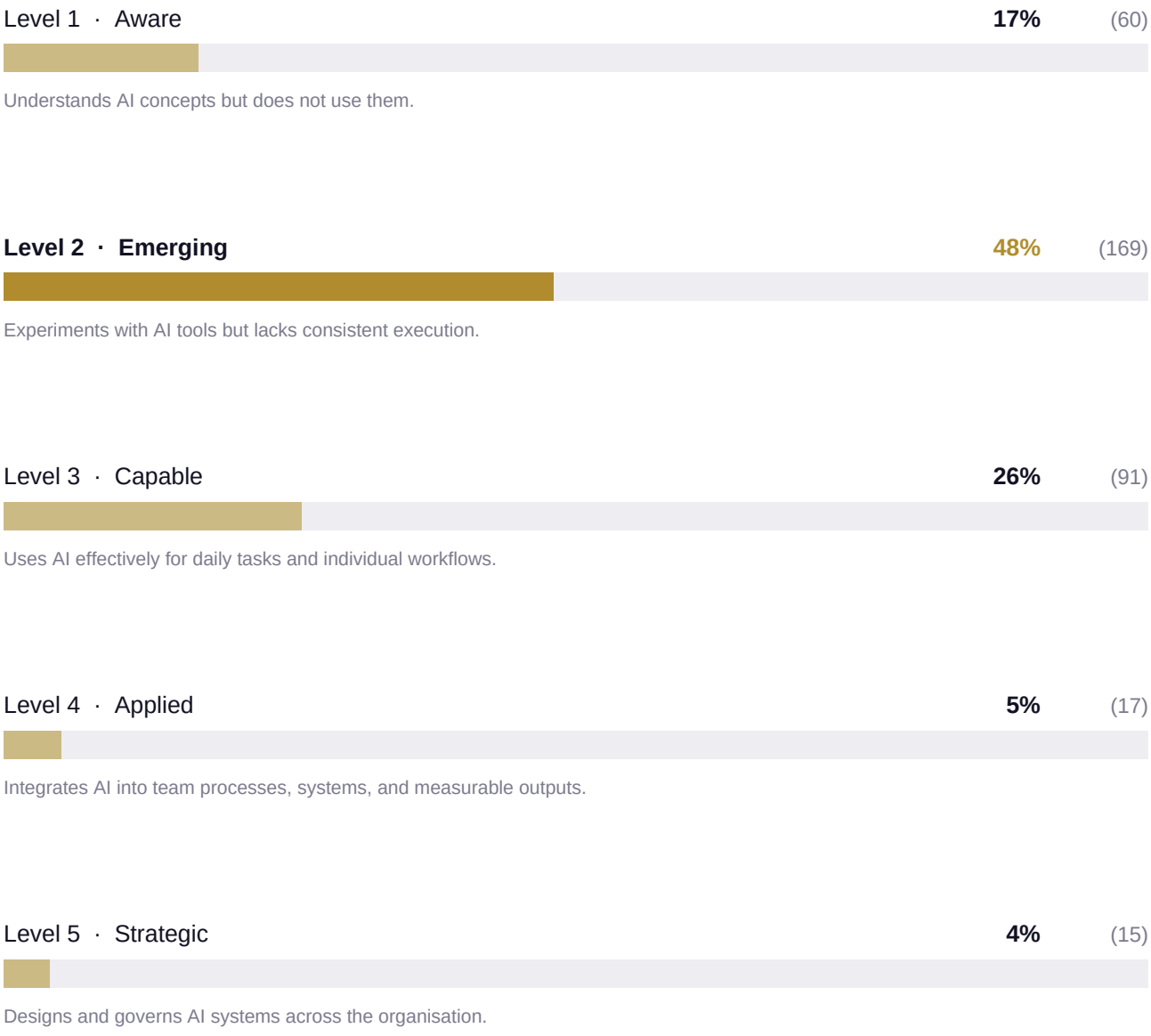
of professionals are stuck at Level 2 (Emerging).

9%

reach Level 4 (Applied) or Level 5 (Strategic).

The distribution

Where 352 professionals sit on the five levels



Percentages are shares of n = 352 assessments. Counts in brackets. The shape of the dataset is a bottleneck at Level 2: almost half of the cohort has reached the tools but not the repeatable process.

Source: ARETE Readiness Index, 2026.

Methodology

This benchmark is based on 352 assessments completed between 23 May and 9 November 2026. The data is derived from the Arete 12-Pillar AI Readiness Assessment, mapped to the 5-Level Arete African AI Fluency Scale.

LIMITATIONS

This is a self-reported dataset. The sample is heavily weighted toward Nigeria (77 of 352) and represents early adopters of AI readiness measurement. It is a directional benchmark, not a census.

CITE THIS BENCHMARK

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Where does your institution sit against this benchmark?

Request a free baseline for a cohort of 20 to 50 staff. Each person takes a 4-minute assessment online; the institution receives a Cohort Readiness Report and a 15-minute walkthrough.

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areteglc.com/african-ai-capability-benchmark