1.0 Introduction

In February 2026, Greater Eastern Africa faced interconnected pressures that directly influenced regional stability, governance, and human security. Armed groups, fragile institutions, and cross-border tensions disrupted communities, limited state capacity, and increased displacement risks across the subregion. Concurrently, regional governments pursued bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, migration management, and strategic economic partnerships, reflecting adaptive responses to evolving political, security, and economic dynamics across the region. Environmental and climate pressures intensified, with uneven rainfall, localised flooding, water stress, and resource constraints affecting livelihoods, infrastructure, and cross-border mobility. These multidimensional pressures interact, amplifying risks that can undermine governance legitimacy, constrain development, and challenge regional coordination, resilience mechanisms, and regional response capacity. Structural vulnerabilities, institutional fragility, and environmental shocks interact to generate systemic pressures affecting regional stability trajectories. Through a security foresight lens, this Outlook reviews February-specific developments across Conflict Trends, Geopolitics, and Environmental/Climate Security domains, highlighting structural patterns, emerging pressures, and potential escalation pathways. It then provides a concise, evidence-based assessment of the month's developments and their implications for supporting peace, stability, and long-term resilience across Greater Eastern Africa.

2.0 Thematic Focus

2.1 Conflict Trends

In February 2026, Greater Eastern Africa faced structural conflict pressures undermining cross-border stability and civilian security. In Sudan, Rapid Support Forces (RSF) intensified operations near al Tina, generating displacement and raising border insecurity (BBC News, 2026; SANA, 2026). In eastern DRC, M23 forces conducted targeted strikes near the Rubaya coltan mines, disrupting trade, mobility, and local livelihoods (France24, 2026; Nation Africa, 2026). South Sudan's vice-presidential reshuffle exposed intra-governmental factionalism, heightening political fragility and localised unrest (Sudan Post, 2026). Uganda navigated post-election demonstrations, revealing governance vulnerabilities with potential cross-border diplomatic repercussions (The East African, 2026; Sudan Tribune, 2026). In Kenya, authorities initiated the phased reopening of the Somalia border after nearly 15 years, prioritising security monitoring to counter Al-Shabaab threats while restoring trade and cross-border movement (BBC News, 2026; DW, 2026). Collectively, these February-specific developments show how armed actors, governance gaps, and regional transitions interact. They generate multi-dimensional insecurity across Greater Eastern Africa and shape both immediate risks and medium-term stability trajectories.

Foresight Recommendations

- **Sudan – al Tina corridor:** Sudanese authorities, together with UNMISS and local councils, should establish secure humanitarian corridors, deploy rapid response units, and strengthen cross-border monitoring to protect civilians, reduce militia-driven displacement, and limit intercommunal tensions.

- **Eastern DRC – M23 insurgency:** The DRC, in coordination with Rwanda and Burundi, should enhance border surveillance, consolidate intelligence-sharing, and set up temporary reception centres for displaced populations to contain insurgent activity while sustaining trade and civilian mobility.

- **South Sudan – political stability:** IGAD and AU mediation teams should facilitate structured intra-governmental dialogue, support equitable power-sharing mechanisms, and implement conflict-sensitive oversight to reduce factionalism and prevent localised unrest from escalating into broader violence.

- **Kenya – Somalia border reopening:** Kenyan authorities and local councils should implement phased border monitoring, expand patrol operations, and deploy rapid response units to mitigate Al-Shabaab threats while ensuring secure cross-border trade and population movement.

Forward-Looking Scenario: If coordinated measures are implemented across Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, DRC, Burundi, South Sudan, and Uganda, conflict pressures may be partially contained, lowering civilian casualties and curbing cross-border displacement. In the absence of such interventions, entrenched armed networks, governance fragility, and regional spillovers could intensify, generating self-reinforcing cycles of instability. Continuous anticipatory monitoring, rapid response mechanisms, and cross-border coordination remain essential to manage structural insecurity and uphold regional stability across Greater Eastern Africa.

2.2 Geopolitical Dynamics

In February 2026, Greater Eastern Africa experienced significant diplomatic and strategic developments shaping regional stability and governance. Rwanda received 164 asylum seekers evacuated from Libya under the UNHCR Emergency Transit Mechanism, requiring structured transit coordination and comprehensive humanitarian support (Xinhua, 2026; Anadolu Ajansı, 2026). Seychelles and India formalised a USD 175 million economic and maritime cooperation package, encompassing infrastructure projects, strategic MoUs, and maritime capacity enhancement (State House Seychelles, 2026; Economic Times, 2026). Burundi and Tanzania engaged in multilateral discussions on cross-border trade facilitation, aiming to harmonise customs procedures and promote deeper regional economic integration (UN, 2026). Mauritius advanced collaboration with the African Union on digital governance frameworks, reinforcing regulatory alignment and standardising policies to support regional trade (AU, 2026). Collectively, these February-specific developments demonstrate how humanitarian management, economic diplomacy, and multilateral engagement shape political alignments, state interactions, and cross-border cooperation, emphasising structural and systemic dynamics rather than isolated or episodic events across Greater Eastern Africa.

Foresight Recommendations

• **Rwanda – Asylum management:** UNHCR, Rwandan authorities, and neighbouring states should ensure structured reception, implement comprehensive protection protocols, and sustain cross-border coordination to uphold humanitarian standards, mitigate social and political tensions, and integrate systematic monitoring of population movements while supporting regional stability.

• **Seychelles–India economic diplomacy:** Both governments should operationalise agreements with clear timelines, actively oversee infrastructure and maritime initiatives, enforce stakeholder accountability, and embed security oversight to safeguard strategic assets and sustain durable bilateral cooperation.

• **Burundi–Tanzania trade facilitation:** Governments should harmonise border procedures, institutionalise joint monitoring mechanisms, and convene regular multilateral dialogues to prevent disputes, strengthen regional economic integration, and reinforce trust among cross-border stakeholders.

• **Mauritius–AU digital governance:** Mauritius should implement standardised regional digital policy frameworks, align national regulations with AU standards, coordinate with technical experts, and monitor compliance to bolster transnational trade, cybersecurity, and cross-border data governance.

Forward-Looking Scenario: If multilateral engagements and policy initiatives led by national governments, AU and IGAD mediation teams, and regional institutions are effectively operationalised, Greater Eastern Africa could experience reinforced regional cooperation, streamlined diplomatic coordination, and more efficient management of migration and cross-border trade. Conversely, delays, inconsistent policy alignment, or gaps in oversight may trigger trade disruptions and intensify cross-border tensions. Sustained coordinated monitoring, transparent execution, and proactive engagement are essential to mitigate these risks, maintain political stability, and strengthen institutional resilience and trust across the subregion.

2.3 Environmental Security

In February 2026, Greater Eastern Africa experienced multiple climate and environmental pressures with direct implications for human security, livelihoods, and cross-border stability. Kenya saw heavy rainfall across western and central regions, causing localised flooding, road disruptions, and agricultural losses (BBC News, 2026; DW, 2026). Somalia continued to endure severe drought in central and northern zones, placing 6.5 million people at acute risk of food insecurity, with malnutrition rates rising among children under five (SANA, 2026; New Arab, 2026). Madagascar faced residual impacts of Tropical Cyclone Fytia, with 63 tonnes of humanitarian aid delivered via Russian military assets to flood-affected communities (Militarnyi, 2026). Tanzania and Djibouti hosted the multinational exercise Justified Accord 2026 (JA 26), integrating climate resilience into military and civil planning and demonstrating regional capacity for coordinated environmental adaptation (National Guard, 2026). Collectively, these February-specific developments illustrate how climate extremes intersect with governance, population mobility, and regional stability, underscoring the critical need for anticipatory planning, coordinated interventions, and strengthened systemic resilience across Greater Eastern Africa.

Foresight Recommendations

• **Kenya – Flood Management:** National disaster authorities, in coordination with county governments and humanitarian partners, should expand flood early warning systems, reinforce drainage and water management infrastructure, and deploy rapid response units to minimise civilian harm, protect livelihoods, and reduce agricultural losses.

• **Somalia drought tigation:** Federal and regional authorities, with support from UN agencies, should scale water distribution, deploy mobile medical clinics, and expand targeted nutritional programs to mitigate acute food insecurity and safeguard vulnerable populations.

• **Madagascar – cyclone response:** The government, alongside international partners, should streamline emergency logistics, reinforce community-level preparedness, and coordinate rapid relief delivery to restore affected infrastructure and prevent secondary humanitarian crises.

• **Regional climate integration:** Tanzania, Djibouti, and participating nations in JA 26 should embed climate resilience into operational protocols across security, civil, and humanitarian planning, ensuring coordinated adaptation measures to protect populations and critical infrastructure from recurring environmental shocks.

Forward-Looking Scenario: If flood mitigation, drought relief, and cyclone response measures are effectively implemented by national authorities and international partners, Greater Eastern Africa may experience reduced climate-induced displacement, secured livelihoods, and strengthened cross-border resilience. Conversely, delays, resource gaps, or poor coordination could exacerbate food insecurity, infrastructure damage, and migration pressures, amplifying governance and security challenges. Continuous monitoring, early warning integration, and regional collaboration remain essential to anticipate environmental shocks and reinforce systemic resilience.

3.0 Conclusion

February 2026 developments across Greater Eastern Africa revealed interconnected pressures spanning conflict, geopolitical, and environmental domains. Structural insecurity persisted, driven by armed actor activity, governance fragility, and cross-border tensions, while political dynamics highlighted the importance of coordinated diplomacy, policy alignment, and multilateral engagement. Simultaneously, environmental and climate shocks, including drought, flooding, and cyclones, continued to strain livelihoods, infrastructure, and regional mobility. These patterns underscore how governance, security, and ecological factors converge to shape systemic vulnerabilities, with immediate and medium-term implications for stability. By synthesising these February-specific insights, the Outlook provides policymakers, regional institutions, and international partners with evidence-based perspectives to anticipate emerging risks, guide preventive measures, and strengthen resilience across Greater Eastern Africa.

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