

## Armored Personal Carrier in the African Market



### Armored Vehicles Manufacturers - related companies in Africa

A vehicle used to take troops and equipment into battle is an armored personnel carrier, an armored truck, or an army mobility vehicle. Infantry combat vehicles are heavier and less mobile than APCs.

They are lightly armed and armored for self-defense from debris, small weaponry, and artillery fire. Non-military organizations also use certain types of APCs. The rise of the worldwide armored personnel carrier industry can be ascribed to rising military spending and the rise of terrorism around the world.

Furthermore, the armored personnel carrier Market is being driven by upgrading armored vehicle fleets. Unlike infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs), APCs are primarily built for transport and do not participate in direct-fire battles.

**South Africa** is one of the top nations in terms of its production and supply of armored vehicles to the rest of the world. South African armored vehicles carry out one of two main roles: either a direct combat role that incorporates a variety of weaponry, or a personnel carrier function that protects troops and delivers them to and from the battlefield.

The most prevalent designs of South African armored vehicles are:

- The Rooikat, created by South African defence major Denel, is an armoured reconnaissance vehicle with a primary attack function and fire support role.
- The Ratel – an alternative word for the honey badger – is known as the first wheeled infantry fighting vehicle to enter military service worldwide. It is currently in use with 13 militaries across Africa and the Middle East. The SANDF has more than 500 Ratels in its arsenal while the Jordanian Armed Forces own around 300 Ratels.
- The RG-34 is a South African mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) light armoured vehicle, which is part of BAE Systems South Africa's RG series.
- The Casspir developed by South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been in service with the South African Army for more than 30 years, which has around 370 in service. It is also a popular model with the Indian Army and the US Army.
- South African defence firm Paramount Group launched the Mbombe mine-protected, high-mobility armoured fighting vehicle in 2010. Mbombe's hull can reportedly withstand a 10kg explosive even if it is placed underneath the hull or wheel arch. It also offers rocket-launched grenade protection and additional modules can withstand up to 50kg of explosives from a range of 5m away. To protect itself, the Mbombe can be fitted with machine guns or an autocannon and has both day and night vision equipment for improved situational awareness. The Mbombe is currently in services with the Jordanian and Kazakh Armed Forces. Paramount Group recently showcased the latest generation Mbombe 4 at IDEX 2019 in Abu Dhabi, the UAE.
- Denel Land Systems' Badger infantry combat vehicle is part of a new generation of South African armoured vehicles, which is designed to replace the ageing Ratel model within the SANDF. Completion of delivery of 264 Badgers to the SANDF should occur by 2022, according to the Project Hoefyster contract. The Badger is a South African-grown variant of Finland's Patria Armoured Modular Vehicle.
- Milkor 4x4 is a new armoured personnel carrier (APC) developed by Milkor, a South African defence vehicle manufacturing



company. Designed to meet the infantry carrier requirements of armed forces in the African continent, the Milkor 4x4 APC is used for troop transportation, casualty evacuation, and riot control missions.

- The Mamba is a South African armoured personnel carrier designed for internal security purposes. It was developed during the late 1980s to replace the Buffel in service with the South African military and security forces. The first models were built on a 4X2 Toyota Dyna chassis, which was subsequently replaced in production around 1994 by a more reliable Unimog chassis. All marks of the Mamba were designed to be mine-resistant and blastproof.

In the foreseeable future one can also expect closer cooperation between the African companies, such as the development of the ST-100 and ST-500 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) for Egypt's International Marathon United Technology Group (IMUT) by South African Saksa Technologies.

Paramount and Namibia's Windhoek Maschinenfabrik (WMF) are currently engaged in armoured vehicle trials in India. In addition, the United Arab Emirates Army will buy the new Mbombe 4 armored car from South African company Paramount, marking the vehicles first sale, according to Paramount's founder and chairman, Ivor Ichikowitz.

As **Nigeria's** first and only indigenous defence manufacturing company incorporated in 2008, Proforce Land Systems is a specialized manufacturer of personal protection suitable for land systems through the manufacturing of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAPs), Armoured Patrol Boats, Ballistic Helmets and Vests, Civilian Armoured Vehicles and Cash-in-Transits.

Proforce is a specialized manufacturer of armoured vehicles in Nigeria and supplies a wide spectrum of defence solutions since 2008. Proforce is ISO 9001:2015 certified and has developed a large portfolio of products for the Police, Military and Civilian markets.

The ARA or Thunder is 19-ton Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle designed to provide ultimate protection for high-degree threats. Combining an array of latest technology, the ARA is a mission adaptive vehicle that provides superior crew protection and offensive ability. The ARA is integrated with a fully independent suspension system.

Proforce's PF2 is its flagship APC, which has been exported to Rwanda, the Central African Republic and South Sudan (it is used for United Nations peacekeeping missions in the CAR and South Sudan). At home, the Nigerian Police Force has acquired a number of PF2 APCs, and this includes by Rivers State, Osun State and Lagos State.

The PF2 features runflat tyres, B6 ballistic protection (up to 7.62x51 mm rounds) as well as blast protection against Land mines, hand grenades, IEDs, etc. (in excess of STANAG 4569 Level 1 to withstand L2A2 grenades).

The PF2 is powered by a 5.5 litre V8 engine developing 536 hp. It can accommodate eight to ten personnel and features eight gun ports.

The Wizard APC is built on a Toyota Land Cruiser chassis and has been supplied to the Nigerian Police and Central Bank of Nigeria. It is powered by a 4.5 litre V8 producing 202 hp and is armoured to B6+ level, with underbelly blast protection.

Proforce Viper is its latest APC and was launched in December 2021 – It is a lighter, faster and more manoeuvrable version of its Ara vehicle and has been designed for special forces use but can support a wide range of military, counterterrorism, and police operations. Proforce literature states the vehicle offers excellent protection against both ballistic and blast threats, with the crew compartment protected to CEN Level B6 up to B7.



## Recent Armored Vehicles sales in Africa

### Nigeria

The Nigerian Army has ordered 28 Ezugwu armoured personnel carriers for counter-terrorism/insurgency missions, a month after the vehicle was unveiled by the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON). The Nigerian Army on 12 November announced that it had formalised an agreement with DICON and the Command Engineering Depot on the mass production of the Ezugwu.

### Malawi

In January 2020, Malawi Defence Force (MDF) received a new fleet of armoured vehicles from the United Nation (UN) to help the Malawi soldiers in their peace keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### Mali

In January 2020, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is supplied Mali with 30 Typhoon armoured vehicles,

for improving Mali's armed forces to fight growing insecurity in the region. The European Union has also delivered another batch of Bastion vehicle.

### Niger

As part of its ongoing support of the Nigerien Armed Forces' anti-extremism efforts, U.S. Ambassador to Niger Eric P. Whitaker in September 2020,

presented Niger's military with \$8 million in equipment and spare parts, including 22 American-made Mamba armored vehicles. Minister of National Defense Issoufou Katambé received the equipment on behalf of the Nigerien Armed Forces (FAN).

### Ghana

Turkish defence industries have slowly been increasing their presence in Africa. Recent recipients of transfers of Turkish equipment include Ghana, which has acquired Cobra and Cobra II armored vehicles, produced by the Turkish firm Cobra.

### Somalia

In August 2020 Turkey donated 12 new armored personnel carriers to the Somali military to support its fight against al-Qaeda affiliated group al-Shabaab. Somali Defense Minister Hassan Ali Mohamed and Somali armed forces commander Gen. Odawa Yusuf Rageh received the donation at a ceremony held in the capi, al Mogadishu.

### Tunisia

In January 2020, BMC, one of Turkey's leading defense contractors, is set to produce armored vehicles for Tunisia as part of a recent deal with the country's Interior Ministry. The contract was signed after the Turkish land vehicle manufacturer won the International Armored Vehicle Tender for the production of a total of nine 4x4 Medium Class Multi-Purpose Armored Vehicles (MPAVs).

### Kenya

The KDF also received 12 Bastion Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) from the United States as a donation to help secure its borders and promote peacekeeping in Somalia, where its troops have been serving under the African peacekeeping mission, Amisom. For the APCs, Kenya bought 12 MD5 diesel engines from France, Sipri says.

### Uganda

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) will receive 45 South African-manufactured Mamba APCs for assembly at the Armoured Vehicle Manufacturing and Assembly Facility in Jinja, which President Yoweri Museveni opened last August.

In the last two decades, Russia has managed to deepen its connection with Africa and became the biggest arms supplier on the continent. Russian armored vehicles for moving and delivering special-purpose units and their equipment are most in demand in African countries. In particular, the BTR-80A, BTR-82A armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles as well as the Tigr family of armored wheeled vehicles.