

Flight Bookings, Shopify Rails, and African Circular Economies Extend Bitcoin Payments

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Lift Airline’s OzowPay integration adds a Bitcoin path for flights, while Lightning-focused infrastructure targets Shopify and mobile-money-linked spending. The rest of the batch centers on grassroots use across Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and South Africa, with no new regulatory changes or hard payment-volume data disclosed.

Major Adoption News

South Africa — Lift Airline adds a Bitcoin payment path for flight bookings

Lift Airline said customers can book flights and select OzowPay’s “Pay with Crypto” option to pay with Bitcoin [1].

Business impact: This adds a flight-booking use case for Bitcoin and shows the payment option can be surfaced inside an existing processor checkout flow [1].

Kenya — Kibera Bitcoin Valley shows Bitcoin being spent on everyday food purchases

In Kibera Bitcoin Valley, merchants were shown accepting Bitcoin for everyday purchases including trail mix, fresh fruits and vegetables, Kenyan donuts, and hand-ground corn maize. FBCE described the community as a local proof of concept where BTC functions as everyday money at scale [2, 3].

Business impact: Spending across staple food and snack purchases points to multiple day-to-day categories rather than a single demonstration merchant [2, 3].

South Africa — Circular-economy tourism is being used to direct spend into local merchant networks

Bitcoin Ekasi said South Africa has six Bitcoin circular economies and promoted organized trips for 31 July–9 August 2026 and 18–27 November 2026, urging visitors to spend sats while meeting the communities building them [4].

“You’re not just a tourist. You’re proof of adoption.” [4]

Business impact: This is an explicit demand-side tactic: the trips are designed to bring people on the ground to spend Bitcoin inside existing circular economies [4].

Payment Infrastructure

Global — Lightning Enable targets Shopify, APIs, and agent tools

Lightning Enable said every API can become a paid API, every agent tool can become a paid service, and every Shopify store can accept internet-native payments, with Lightning Network and L402 as the rails [5].

Significance: Shopify compatibility creates a direct merchant path for Bitcoin payments, while the same stack is also being positioned for paid software and agent-based services [5].

Global — BTCPay Server 2.4.0 unintentionally dropped LNDHub support

Nicolas Dorier said BTCPay Server 2.4.0 no longer supports LNDHub and that the removal was not intentional. He also said he is building a plugin for users who still rely on LNDHub, and pointed to a related GitHub issue: github.com/btcpayserver/btcpayserver/issues/7418 [6, 7].

Significance: For LNDHub-dependent deployments, the immediate issue is compatibility, and the plugin is the stated path to restore support for remaining users [6, 7].

Regional Africa — Bitzed pairs Lightning spending with mobile-money integration

Bitzed was highlighted as providing Bitcoin buying and spending infrastructure through mobile money integration on the Lightning Network [8].

Significance: The product is positioned around both spending and access, combining Lightning with mobile-money integration instead of treating Bitcoin payments as a separate standalone rail [8].

Regulatory Landscape

Africa

No explicit legal, tax, licensing, or enforcement changes affecting Bitcoin payments were cited for African markets in this batch. The sourced developments were commercial and operational: merchant acceptance, circular-economy programs, Lightning/mobile-money infrastructure, and merchant onboarding [1, 4, 8].

Global platforms

No policy or compliance changes were cited for BTCPay Server, Lightning Enable, or processor-linked Bitcoin checkout in the supplied material. The current movement was product-led rather than regulation-led [5, 6, 1].

Usage Metrics

The provided material did not include transaction volumes, checkout totals, user counts, or growth-rate statistics. The clearest measurable signals were disclosed counts of merchants, communities, programs, and purchase contexts:

- **South Africa:** one airline booking flow was cited, alongside **six** named Bitcoin circular economies and **two** scheduled visitor-spend trip windows for 2026 [1, 4].
- **Kenya:** one Mama Mboga stall was explicitly identified as accepting Bitcoin, and Kibera Bitcoin Valley was presented as supporting Bitcoin spending across multiple everyday food categories [9, 2, 3].
- **Uganda:** one service-sector example was cited, with car washers accepting Bitcoin [10].
- **Zambia:** one merchant in Livingstone was shown accepting Bitcoin payments [11].

Emerging Markets

Uganda — Informal services are part of the payment story

Gorilla Sats said car washers in Uganda accept Bitcoin and framed it as real-world adoption [10].

Why it matters: This adds a service-payment example, not just a retail checkout example [10].

Kenya — Household and street-level commerce remain important proving grounds

A Mama Mboga stall in Nairobi was identified as accepting Bitcoin, while Kibera Bitcoin Valley was shown using Bitcoin for everyday food purchases [9, 2, 3].

Why it matters: These examples center on routine consumer purchases rather than one-off promotional use cases [9, 2, 3].

Southern Africa — Adoption efforts are combining merchants, infrastructure, and education

A merchant in Livingstone, Zambia was shown accepting Bitcoin payments [11]. Separately, three projects were highlighted as adoption drivers: Bitzed for Bitcoin buying and spending infrastructure via mobile money on Lightning, Bitcoin Victoria Falls for education and merchant onboarding, and BitJR Academy for children’s practical exposure to Lightning payments [8].

Why it matters: The sourced activity spans acceptance points, onboarding work, and Lightning payment familiarity, indicating a broader ecosystem build-out around payments [11, 8].

Adoption Outlook

The strongest momentum in this batch came from two layers of the Bitcoin payments stack. At the top, established checkout environments expanded, including airline booking via OzowPay in South Africa and Shopify-oriented internet-native payments via Lightning and L402 [1, 5]. On the ground, African circular economies continued to surface routine spending use cases across food retail, informal services, and community merchant networks in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and South Africa [2, 9, 10, 11, 4].

The main information gap remains measurement and regulation. The supplied material showed more places and contexts where Bitcoin can be spent, plus some of the infrastructure enabling those payments, but it did not provide hard transaction data or new legal changes affecting payments [6, 8, 1].

Sources

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2. X post by @CharFadirepo
3. X post by @FBCEglobal
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