

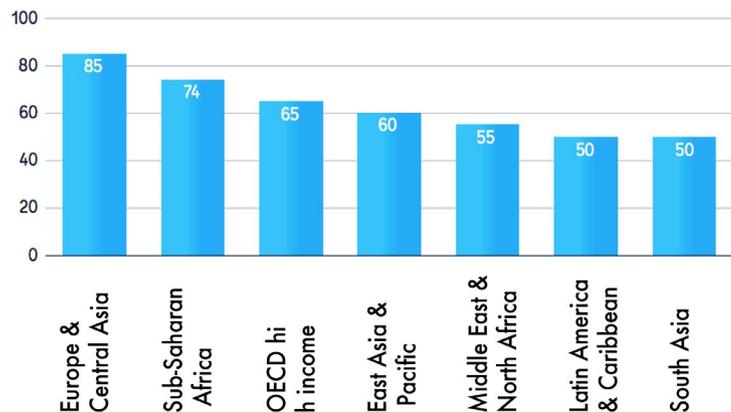
February 2015 Newsletter:

# MEASURING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

A healthy business environment is as much about investor confidence as it is about the opportunities that the environment offers.

In this month's issue we take a look at efforts made by African countries to implement business friendly regulations and ICF's work in helping them to do so.

Share of economies with at least one reform making it easier to do business (%)



Source: Doing Business Database

## A Note From Our CEO

In the past few years we have seen Africa's business environment improve at a rapid pace. Businesses are being registered, commercial courts are being established, and taxes are being paid online. ICF continues to work with African countries to make them even more attractive for doing business.



## ICF Activity Map

We're currently facilitating 28 projects to improve commercial dispute resolution, customs cargo clearance, business registration and licensing, and financial markets usage across the African continent. Visit our interactive activity map to learn more about each project.



[VIEW MAP ONLINE](#)

## Doing Business in Africa in 2015



Source: Doing Business Database

Painting a picture on the current state of affairs of the business environment in Africa is no easy task. It takes a lot of work in order to gather relevant data and information that supports the realities on the ground. This reality is, to a large extent, influenced by many micro and macro factors and is often very different from country to country.

The World Bank's Doing Business Report 2015 is an important piece of work that manages to paint this picture, and not just for Africa, but for 189 economies in the world. African countries, like Rwanda, use it as a measurement tool to gauge how attractive their business regulations are to investors.

The report ranks countries according to how conducive their business environment is and therefore how well they are able to attract businesses. Only seven African countries are in the top 100. This may seem to paint a gloomy picture on the performance of African countries but it is worth noting that these seven countries outranked economies such as China, Brazil and India, three of the five BRICS countries – who are seen as important examples of countries transitioning into the developed

world.

The report also highlighted a number of successes in terms of creating a more business friendly environment. Of the top 10 countries that made the most improvements, five were from Africa – Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This sends an important message to the global business community and further reiterates the opportunity available for local businesses in those countries.

Senegal's move to make property transfers easier, and Côte d'Ivoire's implementation of systems that have simplified inspection report production for imported goods as well as the lowering of port and terminal handling charges are highlighted as some of the good improvements these two countries have made. The report also noted that both these countries have harmonised some of their business laws with 17 other African countries through the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Laws in Africa (OHADA). ICF is supporting OHADA's initiative of business laws harmonisation.

We are proud of the impressive progress shown by African countries as measured by this report. The successes they have achieved will have a direct impact on their ability to attract both local and foreign businesses and will help to boost their economic growth. ICF is on the forefront of helping African countries to implement the reforms that are needed to improve their business environments and make them attractive investment destinations. From business registration, to commercial dispute resolution to trade facilitation, we are helping countries to make it easier for businesses of all sizes to operate.

In the weeks to come we will be sharing more case studies, which talk to the successes of countries across the continent and the great work being done. These, we believe, continue to create an Africa that is open for business and one that is geared towards greater economic development.

[BACK TO THE TOP](#)

## ICF Facts

### Ease of doing business: Top 10 countries that made the most improvements in 2013/14

1. Tajikistan		6. Trinidad and Tobago	
2. Benin		7. Congo, Dem. Rep	
3. Togo		8. Azerbaijan	
4. Côte d'Ivoire		9. Ireland	
5. Senegal		10. United Arab Emirates	

Source: Doing Business database.

# In Next Month's Edition...

## Property Rights

Next month's issue will focus on property rights, the benefits to individuals and businesses, and the achievements African countries have made in securing property rights.

## ICF Funding and Support

ICF provides a unique partnership between the private sector, African governments and development organisations to deliver a better investment climate for Africa. We continue to seek additional funds to enable us to increase the scope and impact of our work.

### Development Partners

ICF receives support from the following governments:



And also from:



### Corporate Partners

ICF also receives support from the following companies:



[BACK TO THE TOP](#)