



Ivory Coast: Alternative Dispute Resolution Project

The challenge:

The enforcement of contracts in Ivory Coast is still unpredictable, slow and costly. The key constraints include the lack of specialized arbitrators, mediators and judges, and lack of transparency.

According to Doing Business 2012, enforcing a contract requires 33 procedures, takes 770 days and costs 41.7% of the value of the claim. Globally, Ivory Coast stands at 124 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of enforcing contracts whereas the average in the region ranks 117.



The Court of Arbitration of Cote d'Ivoire (CACI) recognizes that the modernization of the commercial justice system is crucial to enhancing the speed and efficiency of commercial litigation in Ivory Coast and improving the country's business environment. Although CACI was established in 1997, little communication has been done about the Court and many judges and magistrates have little knowledge about it. As a result, disputes are scarcely referred to the CACI despite the lengthy procedures in the mainstream justice system.

The solution:

ICF is working with the Chamber of Commerce of Ivory Coast to promote arbitration and mediation in the country. The project will improve contract enforcement in Ivory Coast by promoting an alternative avenue for SMEs to resolve their commercial disputes. This includes promoting the Court of Arbitration of Cote d'Ivoire (CACI), reinforcing the internal capacity of the CACI and its stakeholders, and promoting alternative dispute resolution as a swift and transparent way for settling commercial disputes in Ivory Coast

The project will cost a total of US\$ 1,015,555. Of this, ICF is providing US\$ 610,839 and Court of Arbitration of Cote d'Ivoire (CACI) is providing US\$ 404,716.

Expected Results:

The project is expected to reduce the time from filing a case to judgement from 180 days to 100 days. The project will also reduce the cost of filing cases for SMEs from US\$ 300 to US\$ 100 and train a total of 100 arbitrators, lawyers and judges.

Project duration: November 2013 – September 2015

The Investment Climate Facility for Africa is a grant providing organisation that works with African Governments to improve the environment in which businesses operate. ICF engages closely with implementing Government bodies throughout the life of the project. For more information about ICF please visit www.icfafrica.org