

ATLAS OF WORLD TRADE



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



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**INSTITUTE
OF EXPORT**
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Supported by:



British Embassy
Abidjan



If you are looking to export or trade with Côte d'Ivoire, we can help, advise and support you on that journey.

We empower organisations and equip individuals with the expertise to trade effectively, sustainably and competitively.

The Institute is the leading association of exporters and importers. We provide education and training to help professionalise the UK's international traders. We have almost 200 expert staff from 26 nationalities with expertise in 30 vertical sectors – both industry-focused and government-focused.

As a partner with UK and other governments around the world, we deliver national and international programmes, acting as evangelists for the UK and establishing UK processes and standards globally.

IOE&IT co-partners in running the online Customs Academy, the world's first training platform dedicated to customs skills and developed at the request of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

We also lead in the provision of customs and international trade training and education, whether that is short training courses, formal education programmes or bespoke courses for your specific business needs.

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*Basilica of Our Lady of
Peace, Yamoussoukro*

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This collective effort underscores the importance of international partnerships in fostering global trade relations, and the Institute looks forward to continued collaboration in advancing understanding and connections in the realm of international trade.

partnership@export.org.uk

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At a glance...

Thinking about Côte d'Ivoire as an investment or export opportunity? Here's a market snapshot:

- Côte d'Ivoire is one of the most stable economies in West Africa and it is seeking partners, including companies from abroad, to work with.
- Its location on the west coast of Africa makes it an important gateway for trading into and from other African countries.
- Côte d'Ivoire is the UK's 97th largest export market, accounting for just 0.1% of total UK exports, so there remains much untapped potential.
- Growth prospects for Côte d'Ivoire's economy are strong and it weathered the Covid pandemic much better than most countries.
- The government is pursuing a private sector-led growth model and welcomes foreign direct investment by offering tax incentives to companies in accordance with priorities identified in the 2021-2025 National Development Plan.
- Passport and visa requirements are undemanding and the timezone makes it easy for UK businesses to work with their Ivoirian partners.
- The country is religiously diverse, with Islam, Christianity and traditional African religions all strongly represented. The official language of Côte d'Ivoire is French, but numerous indigenous languages are also spoken.
- Côte d'Ivoire abides by the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Common External Tariff (CET).
- Transport infrastructure is sound, especially major highways, but maintenance, congestion and safety issues remain. You can drive in Côte d'Ivoire using an International Driving Permit or a local driving licence, but not a UK licence.
- Félix Houphouët-Boigny International Airport in Abidjan serves as a major aviation hub.
- Export and investment opportunities exist in many sectors, particularly:
 - Energy
 - Construction equipment and material
 - Agro-processing and agricultural services and products
 - Telecommunication equipment and services.

Welcome



Marco Forgione
Director General
Institute of Export &
International Trade

The Opportunity Coast

What's in a name? Quite a lot in the case of Côte d'Ivoire. Few countries in the world have such deeply rooted ties to trade it's so evident in their name. Officially renamed Côte d'Ivoire in 1986, the previous English version (Ivory Coast) and earlier names, including Côte de Dents (literally "coast of teeth", again referencing ivory) and "coast of five or six strips", a nod to the cotton trade, all referenced trade.

While trade is everywhere you look in Côte d'Ivoire, much of the historical trading history between West Africa and the rest of the world raises difficult questions today. But trade remains vital to driving the Côte d'Ivoire economy forward today.

Already the largest economy in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Côte d'Ivoire has been one of the fastest-growing African economies in recent years, experiencing average GDP expansion of more than 8% a year between 2012 and 2019. It even somehow managed to grow through the Covid-19 pandemic (albeit at only 2%) and has kicked on again since.

Cocoa and cashew nuts remain its primary exports, but the economy has the potential to diversify and strengthen further, moving away from its reliance on primary, agricultural goods and into other sectors, such as processed and manufactured goods and even digital technology and services.

Even as the region around it experiences some increased turbulence, Côte d'Ivoire is currently enjoying a period of relative peace and stability, having experienced its share of conflict and upheaval in the past. While it is currently prospering, there remains more to do. The benefits of economic growth could be shared more widely, helping to bring more of its population out of poverty.

Modern trade remains one of the best tools for enhancing opportunities for individuals and communities. Done properly and fairly, with an eye for inclusion, modern international trade can be an enormously powerful tool for bringing communities out of poverty. It can connect people from disparate backgrounds and different parts of the world. And today, traders importing to and exporting from Côte d'Ivoire are focused on compliance with global standards that seek to enshrine fairness and legality in all trade.

If you don't already know it, as you read this guide, you will become aware of what an extraordinary country it is. With a relentlessly optimistic and fiercely proud population, ready to work hard to achieve what they want, there is an entrepreneurial flair that runs through the country that always excites.

In the 1990s, its major port, Abidjan, was dubbed "the Paris of West Africa", while its downtown area was known as the "Manhattan of West Africa". It is a remarkable place that through history has attracted trade-related names and nicknames. Perhaps now is the time for yet another? Welcome then, to Côte d'Ivoire, which I'm convinced should also be known as Côte d'Opportunité or the Opportunity Coast.

Marco Forgione

Director General

Institute of Export & International Trade

Foreword



The time to do business in Côte d'Ivoire is now."

As His Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, it is my pleasure to introduce this guide for British businesses wishing to export and invest in Côte d'Ivoire. This is a nation with a rapidly growing economy and a population of over 29 million people. The country is well positioned as a hub for trade and investment in West Africa and presents a wealth of opportunities for British companies looking to expand into the region.



Catherine Brooker
British Ambassador
to Côte d'Ivoire

In recent years, Côte d'Ivoire has made significant strides in developing its business environment and attracting foreign investment. The government has implemented reforms simplifying business registration, streamlining customs procedures and tackling corruption. These efforts have been fruitful, with Côte d'Ivoire now ranked as the second most improved country in the World Bank's Doing Business report.

The country's economy is driven by several dominant sectors. Agriculture is particularly important. Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer of cocoa and a major producer of coffee, palm oil and rubber. The mining sector is growing, with significant reserves of gold, iron ore and bauxite. The manufacturing sector is expanding, with a focus on textiles, food processing and construction materials. The country also has large-scale infrastructure projects underway.

British businesses looking to export to Côte d'Ivoire will find a range of opportunities in these sectors, as well as in the services sector.

British companies can benefit from Côte d'Ivoire's strong economic fundamentals, rapidly expanding market and the government's commitment to



British Embassy
Abidjan



attracting foreign investment. The country is also home to a young population. With the right approach, British businesses can establish a successful presence in Côte d'Ivoire and take advantage of the many opportunities this dynamic, growing market has to offer. When you arrive in the country you will experience the warmth of the Ivorian people, whilst benefitting from being in an almost identical time zone to that of the UK.

To learn more, please contact the British Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire. We would be more than happy to assist you in any way we can.

Catherine Brooker

British Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire

Foreword

Côte d'Ivoire and the UK have had co-operative relations since 1960, the year of Côte d'Ivoire's independence. They marked a renewed collaboration by signing the Step Economic Partnership Agreement on 15 October 2020, the first that the UK has signed in West Africa.



**Her excellency
Mrs Sara Amani,**
Ambassador of Côte
d'Ivoire to the UK

I welcome the initiative of this handbook, which aims to provide readers with key information for a better understanding of the business environment and the creation of successful and profitable British businesses in Côte d'Ivoire today.

It is perfectly in line with the vision of HE Mr. Alassane Ouattara, president of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, to make our nation an emerging country in the space of a generation thanks to the strengthening of the open economic policy based on the National Development Plan.

The Ivorian economy has been marked by strong growth for several years. Thus, in the nine years from 2012- 2021, Côte d'Ivoire recorded an average annual growth in GDP of 7.1%. The important administrative, legal and tax

reforms undertaken by the government have made it possible to create a favourable environment for foreign investment.

Thanks to its economic dynamism, Côte d'Ivoire is a gateway to the West African region and could soon, with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), offer the opportunity to British companies to directly address a potential market of more than 1.3 billion consumers. In this respect, I would like to reiterate the firm will of the Ivorian authorities to develop economic and trade relations with the UK in a win-win partnership.

There is much support available for the development of business relations between our two countries, and I would urge British investors to place full confidence in Côte d'Ivoire and seize the countless opportunities offered by this beautiful country.

Her Excellency Mrs Sara Amani
Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to the UK

If you are thinking of a place to start investing or expanding in Africa, there is no better place than Côte d'Ivoire. The country accounts for almost 40% of GDP in the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and is the world's top cocoa and cashew nut producer. But what really makes it compelling is its positive outlook for future investments.



Amoi N'GATTIA
Chairman of British
Chamber of Commerce and
Industry in Côte d'Ivoire.



The quality of human capital, the largely untapped natural resources, the economic infrastructures, the incentives for investors – all these together are making the difference. Industry, agriculture, education, and services are sectors that can provide you a good return on investment.

Côte d'Ivoire is a francophone-speaking country where UK companies have happily invested for the long term, mainly in banking sector, the electricity sector, or in consumer goods and up and downstream petroleum activities. If other UK businesses are a success in Côte d'Ivoire, why not you?

We are here to help. At the British Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Côte d'Ivoire [CCIB-CI] we can provide you with a network of businesses that can unlock the value of your business. Our focus is to promote commercial and industrial exchanges between Côte d'Ivoire and the UK, mainly through advocacy and networking services.

As of June 2023, almost 40 companies are benefitting from our services and this figure keeps growing every year. Our Chamber of Commerce, which enjoys close ties with the British Embassy, is the partner of choice for your business in Côte d'Ivoire.

Please contact us by email on se.admin@ccibci.com for further information on how to join our vibrant and promising community.

Amoi N'Gattia
Chairman,
British Chamber of Commerce
and Industry in Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan





UK Export
Finance

UK Export Finance (UKEF): Who we are

UK Export Finance (UKEF) is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, strategically and operationally aligned with the Department for Business and Trade.

Our mission

We advance prosperity by ensuring no viable UK export fails for lack of finance or insurance, doing that sustainably and at no net cost to the taxpayer over time.



How we do it

We fulfil our mission by providing insurance, guarantees and loans where the private sector will not, backed by the strength of the government's balance sheet.

Our work means that...

- more UK companies realise their ambitions for international growth
- more jobs in the UK are supported
- overall UK exports are higher.

We complement, rather than compete with, the private sector and work with around 100 private credit insurers and lenders. We help to make exports happen that otherwise might not, helping UK exporters and their supply chains grow their business overseas. In this way, we provide security of support through economic cycles and market disruptions.

You can check the current UKEF cover position for Cote d'Ivoire by visiting www.gov.uk/guidance/country-cover-policy-and-indicators#cotedivoire

For future information about UKEF please go to www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk



Overview

Côte d'Ivoire, which became independent in 1960, is located on the south coast of West Africa. The official language of Côte d'Ivoire is French, and the currency is the Communauté financière d'Afrique (Financial Community of Africa or CFA) franc (XOF).

Côte d'Ivoire, also known as the Ivory Coast, is one of the largest economies of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS). It is a growing regional hub and can be the gateway to French-speaking Africa and the rest of the region for exporters.



Côte d'Ivoire is a diverse and vibrant nation with a rich history and culture. It is known for a unique blend of ethnic groups, languages and landscapes. The country's varied geography encompasses coastal regions along the Gulf of Guinea, rolling savannahs, lush tropical rainforests and mountainous areas in the west. It is bordered by Liberia and Guinea to the west, Mali and Burkina Faso to the north, Ghana to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the south.

Its national parks and wildlife reserves are protected areas and home to a wide variety of species, including elephants, chimpanzees and countless bird species.

Côte d'Ivoire gained its independence from France in 1960 under the leadership of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who became the country's first president. In the late 20th century and early 21st century, Côte d'Ivoire faced political instability, ethnic tensions and civil conflict. A civil war culminated in a peace agreement in 2007 and the eventual election of Alassane Ouattara as president in 2010.

Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans and a significant producer and exporter of coffee, palm oil, and cashew nuts. Agriculture and related activities employ about 68% of the population.

Since 2006, oil and gas production have become increasingly important to the economy; offshore oil and gas production have resulted in substantial crude oil exports and provide sufficient natural gas to fuel electricity exports to Ghana, Togo, Benin, Mali, and Burkina Faso. Oil exploration by a number of consortiums of private companies continues offshore.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth over the last few years has also been driven by a significant increase in infrastructure investments (roads, bridges, public buildings and so on) which have been built all over the country.



*Assinie-Mafia,
Côte d'Ivoire*



pwc

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As part of the expansive PwC Network, PwC Côte d'Ivoire strives to foster trust and provide enduring results for our clients and the broader society, guided by our New Equation Strategy. As the leading Deals Advisory service provider in Sub-Saharan Francophone Africa, we not only create Deals opportunities within the region, but also manage and execute them effectively.

PwC Côte d'Ivoire advises foreign companies on market entry strategies; compliance with legal and tax regulations; operational efficiency; business optimization; deals advisory; financial modelling; business planning; governance, risk and compliance services; and business monitoring using advanced data analytics when seeking to establish themselves in Côte d'Ivoire.”



How PwC can help UK companies

For UK companies, PwC's bespoke suite of services encompasses in-depth market analysis, strategic business planning, legal and tax advisory, facilitation of partnerships with local entities, assistance in navigating export/import processes, fundraising activities, and due diligence for mergers and acquisitions.

In considering the regulatory and tax landscape, it is vital to recognize that Côte d'Ivoire is part of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), which affects various regulations.

Additionally, the country's Investment Code offers incentives to foreign investors, and grasping its intricacies is essential. This is where country-specific expertise, which PwC can offer to UK companies seeking to work with, and export to, Côte d'Ivoire is absolutely critical.

Sectors primed for growth in Côte d'Ivoire include agribusiness, renewable energy, fintech, digital innovation, and infrastructure development, with a rising middle class indicating potential growth in consumer goods and services.

UK companies should be aware of challenges such as cultural and language differences, regulatory complexity, and the necessity for local partnerships. Compliance with labour laws and understanding market dynamics are also crucial.

PwC Côte d'Ivoire's distinctiveness lies in the combination of global expertise with deep local knowledge. The company's seasoned professionals offer custom solutions supported by PwC's international network and are dedicated to aiding UK companies in achieving success in this burgeoning market.

PwC has a considerable track record of success. Apart from assisting various companies in establishing a presence through market analysis, strategic partnerships, and regulatory navigation, PwC has also been instrumental in business planning for an agribusiness, helping in formulating a robust business plan. Additionally, the company has supported a real estate company through strategic fundraising activities that enabled them to secure capital, expanding their portfolio and impact in Côte d'Ivoire.

The New Equation and our Africa footprint

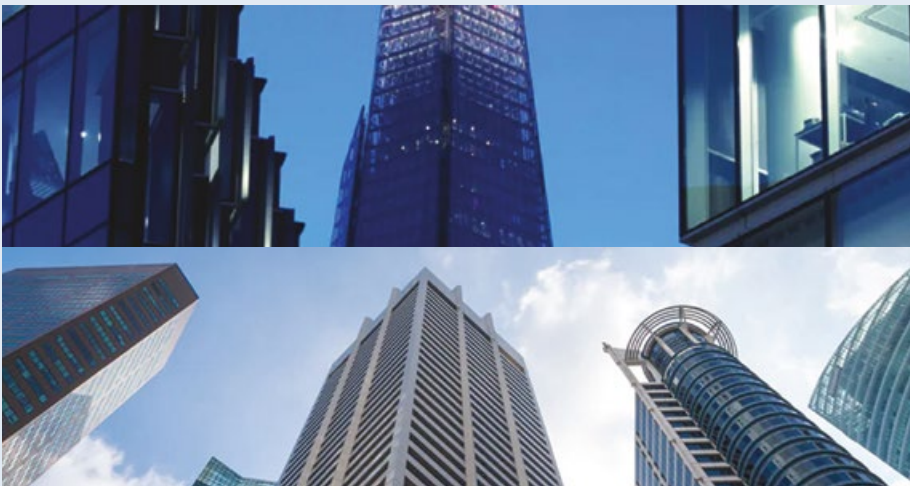
Our clients come to PwC for innovative and imaginative solutions to help them meet the challenges they face and capitalise on the opportunities they have to build trust with – and deliver sustained outcomes for – their stakeholders.

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We're a network of firms in 156 countries with over 295,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services.

In Africa, we're the largest provider of professional services with over 450 partners and over 10,000 people in 32 countries. This means that we're able to provide our clients with seamless and consistent tax, assurance and advisory solutions, wherever they do business on the continent.

Our strategy, The New Equation, is about how PwC brings together unique combinations of people, powered by technology, galvanising ourselves as a community of solvers to address those dual challenges. The foundation of the strategy is our multidisciplinary model, which allows us to help clients build trust and deliver sustained outcomes by bringing together deep expertise across a broad range of capabilities.

It is this combination of capabilities and the ability to look at things from different perspectives that is so essential to delivering high quality and real impacts for clients, stakeholders and society at large in Africa and globally.



Understanding business in Africa: the NextGen Survey

PwC's Africa NextGen Survey is an extensive survey of the next generation of business leaders. The most recent survey shows how the pandemic has united the generations around a common goal: driving growth to secure stability.

But this is just the beginning of the story. The business landscape is shifting rapidly, and the responsibility and challenges future leaders face are complex. Business as usual isn't an option in a world characterised by economic disruption, pervasive uncertainty and climate change. There is, in particular, a vital link between environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns and growth.

We believe that a business-as-usual approach won't be enough. Leaders will have to develop your own blueprint for success. To maintain stability and achieve necessary growth, leaders will find themselves pushing boundaries and challenging years of established thinking. Leaders need new capabilities beyond digital expertise to deliver on environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns: to reach net zero, to manage the evolving workforce trends as we face the great resignation and to identify new markets in a post-pandemic world.

A crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic reminded businesspeople at all levels that their training and career path can't prepare them for everything. Indeed, 40% of survey respondents believe the pandemic identified a need for upskilling and additional education.

When future business leaders were asked what they think they need to learn, the list was a familiar one: business model innovation (48%), finance/ investments (47%) and leadership development/ soft skills (47%). Sustainability was identified as a priority by only 33%.

Most respondents had excellent business qualifications—84% with at least a university degree, the majority in business and finance, and 13% with an MBA or doctorate. But is more of the same the right solution today? Businesses need new perspectives if they're going to take full advantage of all the opportunities in the transformational years ahead. Business schools are beginning to recognise this, and many are exploring a more multidisciplinary approach to business and leadership, one that places a far greater emphasis on people, planet and purpose, instead of pure profit maximisation.



Business leaders cannot afford to ignore ESG

The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that at 1.5°C global warming, heavy precipitation and associated flooding are projected to intensify and be more frequent in most regions on the African continent. On a regional basis, the report warns about increased monsoon precipitation in West Africa, higher incidence of agricultural and ecological drought in Southern Africa, as well as reduced rainfall in some parts of East Africa.

It is clear - now more than ever before - that African organisations and those who work with them simply cannot afford to downplay the importance of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues. However, our survey shows that African companies are lagging behind their global peers in adopting ESG goals and strategies.

Our CEO survey showed that the majority of CEOs in Africa are concerned about physical and transition risks associated with climate change. Nonetheless, despite this concern, most African CEOs said their company had not made a carbon-neutral or net-zero commitment.

However, research by the University of Oxford Sustainable Finance Programme shows that an increase in company-level ESG performance can result in a positive effect on a country's living standards – both in developed and emerging markets.

Our view is that African companies should integrate ESG considerations into their corporate and investment initiatives and activities, and internalise ESG issues holistically to build trust and ensure long-term sustainability, agility, and competitiveness. Companies seeking to work with African businesses, including those in Côte d'Ivoire, will need to be alert to ESG demands placed on them as part of the business ecosystem.

The key drivers influencing the relevance and importance of ESG strategies differ by industry, but typically include disruption and vulnerability in socio-economic circumstances, regulatory requirements, changing market supply and demand priorities, environmental anomalies, the transformation of investor perspectives and technological and academic progress.

It is clear – now more than ever before – that African organisations simply cannot afford to downplay the importance of ESG factors. Stakeholders increasingly expect organisations to communicate and deliver convincing, measurable and sustainable strategies that have embedded ESG matters.

At PwC, we are proud ESG ambassadors and have aligned this approach to our global strategy, The New Equation. This enables us to build trust in society and deliver sustained outcomes. Through this lens, the global PwC network has committed to achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2030, decarbonising our supply chain, embedding ESG factors into our client engagements, and supporting efforts to develop ESG reporting frameworks and standards.

Recently, the global PwC network received validation for its science-based targets. Bob Moritz, Global Chairman of PwC, commented:



Bob Moritz
Global Chairman of PwC

“

There is a strong need for stakeholders from across society to work together. Whether it's the pandemic, climate change, social injustice, or the digital divide, there is a growing expectation that businesses have a role to play in addressing broader societal issues. Our new strategy is about helping clients face their toughest challenges and delivering for society and the planet.”



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**Building trust in society
and solving important
problems by delivering
quality in Assurance, Tax
and Advisory services.**

<https://www.afrique.pwc.com>

Geography and politics



Côte d'Ivoire is a coastal country situated on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. It shares borders with Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana. It has a diverse landscape, ranging from lush rainforests in the south to savannahs and mountains in the north. The Ébrié Lagoon, which surrounds the economic capital, Abidjan, is an important geographical feature. The city is divided by a branch of the lagoon into Plateau, the first European settlement, to the north, and Treichville, the first large African settlement, to the south. Bridges connect the two areas.

Yamoussoukro was officially named the new national capital in 1983, but austerity measures, civil conflict and other factors have slowed the transfer of government functions, and Abidjan remains the de facto capital.

Côte d'Ivoire enjoys a tropical climate, with very distinct wet and dry seasons. The southern regions experience high rainfall and are characterized by a humid equatorial climate, while the northern regions are much more arid and have more of a Sudanese climate.

There are more than 60 ethnic groups in Côte d'Ivoire. Traditionally, the groups were independent from each other. Over time, internal migration and extensive intermarriage has greatly reduced group identity with a particular cultural tradition in any given locality. Each of these groups has ethnic affiliations with larger groups living outside the borders of the country.

Côte d'Ivoire is a republic with a presidential system of government. The country has a history of political instability and conflict, particularly in the early 2000s. However, since the end of the Ivorian Civil War in 2011, the political situation has significantly improved. The country has held democratic elections, and President Alassane Ouattara has been instrumental in stabilising the nation.

Côte d'Ivoire was proclaimed an independent republic in 1960 and has seen a series of new constitutions drawn up and approved. The latest constitution, approved in 2016 and amended in 2020, decrees that executive power is vested in the directly-elected president, who serves a five-year term, and can only be re-elected once. The president, who serves as the head of state, is assisted by a vice president, who is chosen by the elected president and approved by parliament.

The president is also assisted by the prime minister, who serves as the head of government. The president appoints the prime minister and, with the prime minister's recommendations, the Council of Ministers. Legislative power is vested in the National Assembly and the Senate. The 255 members of the National Assembly are directly elected for five-year terms. The Senate has 99 members, of which 66 are indirectly elected by local and regional councils and 33 are appointed by the president. Senators serve a five-year term.



*Basilica of Our Lady of Peace,
Yamoussoukro*

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ACCOR

Powered by emotion

“Accor Côte d’Ivoire has eight hotels that are perfect for business travellers from the UK.

With 1,744 rooms, suites and flats and more than 40 meeting spaces across six hotel brands, there is the perfect choice for every traveller and every trip.”

all.com

Find out more about our hotels and events



Our hospitality has heart, we offer a welcome that sparks inspired experiences everywhere.

Whether you want to travel, work or play, we transform everyday moments into heartfelt connections.

Where powerful brands deliver exceptional experiences and value, we shape a future where hospitality unlocks a life lived with passion.

Innovating with talent and creativity to deliver a welcoming human touch, we sustainably give back to one planet and many communities.

Our people, our partners, our guests and our local communities all connect as they spend time with us.

Accor brings people together to feel welcome in a wider world, where emotion has the power to change everything.





ACCOR GROUP – Welcomes you to Abidjan

Côte d'Ivoire is the leading economic power in West Africa. Abidjan, its capital, is now a business destination with a number of infrastructures that are essential for professionals.

Accor Côte d'Ivoire is the market leader in terms of accommodation capacity and quality of service.

With the addition of two new Abidjan hotels at the end of 2023 - a Novotel and an Adagio Apart'hotel on Boulevard Valéry Giscard d'Estaing - Accor has eight hotels, with 1,744 rooms, suites and flats and more than 40 flexible meeting and conference spaces.

Accor intends to step up its development in Côte d'Ivoire over the next few years. Today, Accor sees its hotels as places to live. Hotels are no longer just places to sleep and eat.

You'll find a range of attractions, leisure activities, spas, fitness centres and art galleries, themed restaurants and business or private events to make your stay memorable.



ACCOR CÔTE D'IVOIRE AT A GLANCE

- 8 hotels by the end of 2023
- 1,744 rooms, suites and flats
- More than 40 flexible meeting spaces
- 6 brands: Sofitel, Pullman, Movenpick Novotel, Adagio, Ibis Styles.



SOFITEL ABIDJAN HOTEL IVOIRE

S O F I T E L
ABIDJAN HOTEL IVOIRE

Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire opens its doors to you with 426 spacious rooms, suites and flats from which you can enjoy a panoramic view of the Ebrie Lagoon or the chic Cocody district.

Its spa, fitness centre, 3D cinema, outdoor swimming pool, restaurants and bars invite you to relax.



This 5-star hotel is the perfect venue for your international events (trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences, congresses) thanks to its 18 rooms with a total capacity of 5,459 m² and its 1,650-seat convention centre.

MOVENPICK HOTEL ABIDJAN

MÖVENPICK
HOTEL ABIDJAN

Located in the heart of the Plateau, Movenpick Hotel Abidjan is an authentic and charming address with 160 rooms and suites. It also features 4 meeting rooms. With its modern facilities, design and numerous works of art by African artists, this elegant 5-star hotel is ideal for combining a business stay with the pleasure of discovery. Art is in its DNA and gives the hotel a special energy.



Enjoy the excellent service and privileges of its Executive Club, unique in Abidjan. The hotel is part of the Plaza Nour Al Hayat, with boutiques, an art gallery and an Italian restaurant.

PULLMAN ABIDJAN

 pullman
HOTELS AND RESORTS
ABIDJAN

Pullman Abidjan is located in Le Plateau, on the banks of the Ebrie Lagoon, with magnificent views over the city. It is the ideal hotel for hyper-connected and refined business or leisure guests.

This 5-star hotel has 265 spacious rooms and suites and 7 meeting rooms.



With its contemporary art and lifestyle positioning, the Pullman Abidjan offers Pull'ART on Wednesdays, Afterworks on Thursdays, the Gondwana Comedy Club every Friday and the unmissable Sunday brunch.



NOVOTEL ABIDJAN

Novotel Abidjan, a 4-star hotel, is also located on the banks of the Ebrie Lagoon in the Plateau business district.

The hotel has 258 rooms including 12 suites, an N'Restaurant, a Lounge Bar & Terrace, conference rooms for your meetings & seminars, a wedding area, a fitness room and an outdoor swimming pool with a garden. Ideal for a business trip or a family weekend.



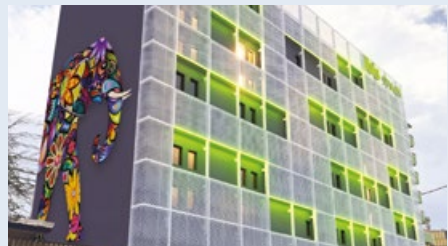
Its "African brunch", sparkling live evenings and numerous leisure activities will brighten up your stay.

IBIS MARCORY AND IBIS PLATEAU BECOME IBIS STYLES!



In 2023, the Ibis Marcory and Ibis Plateau hotels have been rebranded as Ibis Styles following renovation work that began at the end of 2022.

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Accor hospitality is fundamentally about people and our success relies on our Heartists® to deliver the best service, welcome and care for our guests. With people at heart, our world expands. Our culture nurtures empowerment and welcomes everyone with openness.

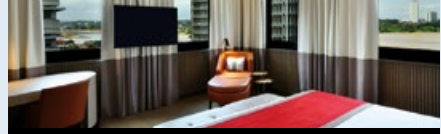
We are 100% committed to sustainability, with people at the heart of what we do. As such, we strive to make a meaningful impact by unlocking lifestyle experiences and shaping the hospitality of tomorrow - together, with all our stakeholders: Heartists®, owners, partners, guests and communities.



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SOFITEL ABIDJAN HOTEL IVOIRE

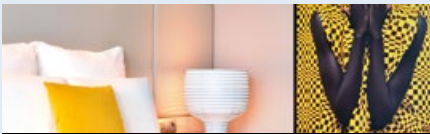
426 rooms, suites and flats
 18 meeting rooms including a 1650-seat auditorium.
 4 restaurants: Le Toit d'Abidjan, La Brasserie, La Gourmandise, Le Jardin
 4 bars and pools: Link Bar, Cacao lounge, Oasis Pool Lounge, Bar Le Jardin
 Sofitel Spa and Sofitel Fitness
 A shopping mall and a Majestic 3D cinema
 Elephant d'Or Casino Barriere.



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MOVENPICK HOTEL ABIDJAN

160 rooms and suites
 4 meeting rooms
 1 restaurant "Le M Restaurant & Terrasse
 Clos 54 wine bar.
 The Executive Club with its lounge on the top floor and 1 state-of-the-art fitness centre open 24 hours a day.



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 7 modular meeting rooms
 1 "AFIA" restaurant
 2 bars – Le Social and Le select
 Pullman Spa Lounge and Pullman Fit Lounge.



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258 rooms including 12 suites
 8 meeting rooms for up to 350 people
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 1 Fitness room
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IBIS MARCORY AND IBIS PLATEAU BECOME IBIS STYLES!

IBIS PLATEAU – 190 rooms - 3 meeting rooms, 1 bar and 1 restaurant.
 Contacts: H0732@accor.com | (+225) 27 20 30 16 00

IBIS MARCORY – 135 rooms - 3 meeting rooms, 1 bar and 1 restaurant Swimming pool.
 Contacts: H0667@accor.com | (+225) 27 21 35 89 10



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Know the economy

Côte d'Ivoire is a large economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). It is the world's top exporter of cocoa beans, raw cashew nuts and a net exporter of oil. Significant reforms are being implemented to broaden and strengthen the manufacturing sector and attract investment.

Other sectors, such as mining (gold and oil), manufacturing, and services, have been growing steadily. Infrastructure development and investment in these sectors have attracted foreign investors, contributing to the country's overall economic growth. Companies conducting business in Côte d'Ivoire find a number of elements in their favour: a favourable business environment; a growing economy; a skilled workforce; its strategic location; and a simple tax regime.

Côte d'Ivoire has experienced significant economic growth in recent years. Its GDP growth rate has consistently been above the sub-Saharan African average, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the region.

The government has implemented economic reforms to attract foreign investment and promote economic stability. These reforms have led to increased investor confidence and growth in various industries.





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Côte d'Ivoire has invested in infrastructure development, including roads, ports, and energy production. This has improved the country's connectivity and facilitated trade and economic growth. The country has taken steps to improve its business environment, including streamlining administrative procedures and promoting entrepreneurship. The World Bank has recognised these efforts, ranking the country favourably in its Doing Business reports.

The country has a liberal trade policy, and it is a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the West African Economic Community (ECOWAS), which facilitates trade with neighbouring countries. Côte d'Ivoire uses the West African CFA franc (XOF) as its official currency, which is pegged to the Euro and guaranteed by the French Treasury.

Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Côte d'Ivoire was £587m in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023, a decrease of 13.0% or £88m in current prices from the four quarters to the end of Q2 2022. Of the £587m recorded:

- Total UK exports to Côte d'Ivoire amounted to £325m in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023 (an increase of 68.4% or £132m in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of Q2 2022)
- Total UK imports from Côte d'Ivoire amounted to £262m in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023 (a decrease of 45.6% or £220m in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of Q2 2022) Côte d'Ivoire was the UK's 103rd largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023 accounting for less than 0.1% of total UK trade.

In 2021, the outward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) from the UK in Côte d'Ivoire was £61m.

The latest data shows that UK exports of goods to Côte d'Ivoire increased by 105.6% for the 12 months to August 2023 compared to the same period the previous year.

Summary trade and investment statistics for Côte d'Ivoire

UK trade with Ivory Coast, in current prices (based on the latest four quarters)³:

Trade	Value in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023	Change from the four quarters to the end of Q2 2022
Total trade	£587 million	a decrease of 13.0% or £88 million
Ranking out of all the UK's trading partners	103rd	
Total UK exports	£325 million	an increase of 68.4% or £132 million
Ranking out of all the UK's export partners	94th	
UK exports in goods (percentage of total UK exports that were goods)	£219 million (67.4%)	an increase of 119.0% or £119 million
UK exports in services (percentage of total UK exports that were services)	£106 million (32.6%)	an increase of 14.0% or £13 million
Total UK imports	£262 million	a decrease of 45.6% or £220 million
Ranking out of all the UK's import partners	107th	
UK imports in goods (percentage of total UK imports that were goods)	£243 million (92.7%)	a decrease of 46.4% or £210 million
UK imports in services (percentage of total UK imports that were services)	£19 million (7.3%)	a decrease of 34.5% or £10 million

UK market share in Ivory Coast⁴:

UK market share for total trade	Value in 2022	Change from 2021
Total UK market share	1.6%	a decrease of 0.4 percentage points
UK market share for goods only	1.3%	an increase of 0.1 percentage points
UK market share for services only	2.7%	a decrease of 1.8 percentage points

UK Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) with Ivory Coast⁵:

UK FDI	Value in 2021	Change from 2020
Total UK outward FDI	£61 million	a decrease of 16.1% or £12 million
Total UK inward FDI	Data not available due to data disclosure	Comparison not available

Economic statistics and projections using gross domestic product (GDP) for Ivory Coast⁶:

Economic statistics	2020	2021	2022	2023
Economic growth, using GDP in real terms, compared to the previous year	1.7%	7.0%	6.7%	6.2%
GDP per capita in \$USD (in thousands)	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.7

Ivory Coast was the 84th largest economy in 2022, in terms of gross domestic product (GDP).

Top goods traded with the world by Côte d'Ivoire, in current prices (UN Comtrade) ^{35 36}

Data presented here shows the top commodities traded to the world, not solely the UK, by Ivory Coast. These commodities are presented on a different classification from the earlier data by commodity from the ONS and should not be directly compared.

Top goods exported to the world by Ivory Coast in 2020:

Rank	HS Commodity	\$USD billion	% of total goods exported
1	18 - Cocoa and cocoa preparations	5.2	41.5%
2	71 - Precious stones and metals	1.5	11.8%
3	27 - Mineral fuels or oils, products of their distillation	1.3	10.3%
4	08 - Edible fruit and nuts	1.1	9.0%
5	40 - Rubber and articles thereof	1.0	8.4%
6	52 - Cotton	0.3	2.5%
7	33 - Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery	0.2	1.9%
8	15 - Animal or vegetable fats and oils	0.2	1.9%
9	26 - Ores, slag and ash	0.2	1.3%
10	39 - Plastics and articles thereof	0.1	1.0%
	All goods exported	12.5	100.0%

Top goods imported from the world by Ivory Coast in 2020:

Rank	HS Commodity	\$USD billion	% of total goods imported
1	27 - Mineral fuels or oils, products of their distillation	2.0	19.4%
2	84 - Machinery and mechanical appliances	1.0	9.8%
3	10 - Cereals	0.8	7.2%
4	87 - Vehicles other than railway or tramway stock	0.7	6.7%
5	85 - Electrical machinery and equipment	0.7	6.3%
6	03 - Fish and crustaceans	0.6	5.5%
7	39 - Plastics and articles thereof	0.5	4.9%
8	30 - Pharmaceutical products	0.4	3.8%
9	72 - Iron and steel	0.3	2.9%
10	38 - Miscellaneous chemical products	0.3	2.6%
	All goods imported	10.5	100.0%

³⁵ United Nations (UN) Comtrade data are sourced from the online [UN Comtrade tool](#). The data reported above are for 2020, but as the data upload to UN Comtrade is continuous, more timely data may be available from the source.

³⁶ Data are classified using the [Harmonized System](#) and are given on a physical movement basis, with UK data comparable to HMRC data sources rather than the headline trade figures presented here from ONS.

The top five goods exported from the UK to Côte d'Ivoire in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023 were:

- 69 - Miscellaneous metal manufactures (£64.9m or 28.7% of all UK goods exported to Côte d'Ivoire)
- 74I - General industrial machinery (intermediate) (£21.4m or 9.5%)
- 33R - Refined oil (£13.9m or 6.1%)
- 87K - Scientific instruments (capital) (£10.2m or 4.5%)
- 78M - Cars (£10.2m or 4.5%)

Côte d'Ivoire and the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement in 2020 with the aim of maintaining and improving trade and economic relationships. Officials and businesses are keen to work with non-traditional business partners. Many who have collaborated with British businesses appreciate the benefits of British expertise, due diligence, technology, and a winning partnership.

Telecommunication

The telecommunications sector in Côte d'Ivoire has seen remarkable expansion and modernisation, with multiple mobile network operators and internet service providers. Rollout of 5G has begun. Mobile phone penetration is high, and the country has witnessed a rapid increase in mobile banking services and digital payment solutions. Internet connectivity and access to technology are improving, contributing to the growth of the IT and software development industry.



Challenges and issues

Despite its economic successes, Côte d'Ivoire continues to grapple with several challenges. Political stability remains a concern, with periodic outbreaks of violence and tensions across the country. There are also ongoing issues related to human rights, as well as concerns over governance and corruption.

And there are environmental concerns, such as deforestation due to cocoa production. These pose long-term threats to the nation's biodiversity and sustainability. Côte d'Ivoire also faces demographic pressures as its population grows, necessitating investments in education, healthcare and job creation.

In some areas, there is a shortage of skilled workers and high levels of poverty, resulting in limited purchasing power. UK businesses may also struggle with insufficient and unreliable market data and uncertainty of legal protection, due to a historically inefficient court system.

However Côte d'Ivoire and the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement in 2020 with the aim of maintaining and improving trade and economic relationships. Officials and businesses are keen to work with non-traditional business partners.

Centre for Investment Promotion

The Centre for Investment Promotion (Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire, or CPI-CI), established in 1995, is a government agency dedicated to promoting and facilitating investment in Côte d'Ivoire. Its primary objective is to attract both domestic and foreign investors, thereby fostering economic development and creating new opportunities for the Ivorian people. The CPI-CI works as a bridge between investors and the government, providing a one-stop shop for businesses interested in setting up operations in the country.

The Key Functions of CPI-CI are:

- **Investment Promotion:** CPI-CI promotes Côte d'Ivoire as an investment destination by highlighting its strategic location, natural resources, and robust economic potential. The agency conducts marketing campaigns, participates in international trade events, and collaborates with various stakeholders to showcase the country's investment opportunities.
- **Investor Support:** The CPI-CI assists investors in navigating the complexities of the Ivorian business environment. This includes helping with administrative procedures, permits, and licences, as well as providing information about local regulations and incentives.
- **Facilitating Partnerships:** The agency plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration between investors and local businesses, helping to create joint ventures and partnerships that stimulate economic growth and knowledge transfer.
- **Policy Advocacy:** CPI-CI works closely with the Ivorian government to advocate for policies that promote investment and improve the business climate. This collaboration has led to several legislative reforms aimed at simplifying administrative procedures and reducing bureaucratic hurdles for investors.



Zones Industrielles de Côte d'Ivoire



“Zones Industrielles de Côte d'Ivoire (ZIC) presents a unique strategic opportunity for astute investors seeking to capitalise on the thriving business landscape of Côte d'Ivoire. With its expansive industrial ecosystem, cutting-edge infrastructure and investor-friendly incentives, it is poised to be the epicentre of economic growth in the region.

Join us as we unravel the vast potential and boundless opportunities that ZIC offers, propelling Côte d'Ivoire toward a future of sustainable growth and prosperity.”

TARGET

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-  Pharmaceutical Industries
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- ✔ Spatial & Sustainable Land Development Plan
- ✔ Streamlined Logistical System
- ✔ Superb Infrastructure Connectivity
- ✔ Reliable Electricity & Water Supply
- ✔ Incentives for SMBs
- ✔ Thrive with Trade Agreements such as AFCFTA, WAEMU, and ECOWAS

Invest in ZIC Today and Shape the Future of Industrial Growth!

To learn more about investment opportunities and explore our prime Industrial Zone, contact us

ZIC - Your Gateway to Industrial Success in Côte d'Ivoire

Zones Industrielles de Côte d'Ivoire (ZIC) is an integrated industrial development project aimed at achieving sustainable industrial growth in Africa, led by Arise IIP. Developed in partnership with the government, ZIC comprises three key industrial zones: ZIC Abidjan, ZIC San Pedro, and ZIC Ferkessédougou. With its strategic objectives of increasing the agri-transformation rate, replacing imports with local industrial production, and unlocking local value chains, ZIC heralds a new era of enhanced competitiveness and self-sufficiency. By bringing together a multitude of services under one roof, ZIC creates a dynamic ecosystem that fosters agri-transformation, propels local industry production, and revolutionizes the country's economic landscape.

Economic Potential of Côte d'Ivoire

Nestled in West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire shines as an economic powerhouse brimming with opportunities. Its strategic location and vibrant entrepreneurial spirit has transformed it into a flourishing trade hub. The nation's diverse sectors offer a bountiful canvas for local and international investors.

With fertile soils and favourable climates, Côte d'Ivoire is a leading global exporter of cocoa, coffee, fruits, and nuts. Its industrial growth in manufacturing, energy and infrastructure attracts foreign direct investment, driving innovation and competitiveness. Committed to education and healthcare, the nation empowers its skilled workforce, fostering social development. Côte d'Ivoire's impressive economic indicators and favourable business environment make it an attractive destination for investors seeking growth and prosperity in West Africa.

- No.2 in Ease of Doing Business in West Africa
- Impressive 7% GDP CAGR from 2011-2019
- No.4 Fastest-growing Infrastructure Development Index in Africa
- Significant investments in transport infrastructure
- No.2 highest FDI to GDP ratio in West Africa (\$1.8 bn total)
- Access to a population of 120 million through the port of Abidjan
- Growing middle class (26% of the population) driving demand for consumer goods
- Member of ECOWAS and UEMOA for enhanced regional integration.

ZIC Abidjan: A Gateway to Untapped Opportunities

In a landmark agreement signed in 2022, the bustling capital city of Abidjan welcomed the development of ZIC, the newest addition to Arise IIP's integrated industrial ecosystem in Africa. This visionary project emerged through a transformative public-private partnership between the government of Côte d'Ivoire and Arise IIP's local subsidiary.

With ZIC, a window of opportunity has been created to invite small-scale farmers, producers, local investors, and stakeholders alike to witness and actively participate in the region's remarkable development. Committed to creating sustainable pathways, ZIC aims to unlock streamlined value chains that will ignite and propel the nation's economic growth.

Spread across 440 hectares, ZIC Abidjan stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to industrial development. With a total investment of 190 billion CFA, the industrial zone aims to attract businesses in multiple sectors. Within its vast premises, it also has a warehousing capacity spanning 20 hectares, providing ample space for efficient storage and logistical operations. The container and truck terminal enable the handling of an impressive volume of 100,000 TEUs.

Côte d'Ivoire's International Alliances and Trade Agreements

Côte d'Ivoire has forged strategic international alliances and trade agreements that have significantly impacted its trade and economic landscape. These alliances open up avenues for increased market access, harmonization of business laws, and preferential treatment in key trading regions.

Some of them are:

- **AFCFTA:** Côte d'Ivoire is a party to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCFTA), enabling enhanced intra-African trade among 43 African Union countries.
- **ECOWAS:** As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Côte d'Ivoire benefits from the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS), ensuring the free movement of goods among 15 West African countries.
- **West African Economic and Monetary Union:** Côte d'Ivoire, along with seven other nations, shares the West African CFA currency within the West African Economic and Monetary Union.
- **OHADA:** Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires (OHADA), which harmonizes business laws across Africa, promoting legal consistency and facilitating business transactions.
- **U.S. AGOA:** Côte d'Ivoire benefits from the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), allowing tariff-free exports of specific goods to the United States, and enhancing trade relations.
- **EU Economic Partnership Agreement:** Côte d'Ivoire ratified an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU), securing duty-free, quota-free access for Ivorian exports to the EU market.
- **Tariff Treatment:** The EPA ensures that Côte d'Ivoire's products receive the same tariff treatment as both the EU and the UK, facilitating trade with these regions.

Sustainability at ZIC: Building a Self-Reliant and Inclusive Future

At ZIC, the mission is to drive sustainable change; the key focus areas revolve around four pillars:

1. **Carbon Neutrality:** Prioritizing environmental stewardship by implementing innovative technologies, energy-efficient practices, and renewable energy sources to achieve carbon neutrality across our industrial zones.
2. **Diversity and Inclusion:** By promoting equal opportunities, gender equality and inclusivity, the industrial zone creates an environment that fuels innovation and sustainable growth.
3. **Responsible Supply Chain:** The zone adheres to responsible and sustainable supply chain practices, ensuring ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and social accountability.
4. **Circular Economy:** Embracing the principles of waste reduction, resource efficiency, and circular business models form a key part of minimizing environmental impact and fostering a regenerative economic ecosystem.

ARISE IIP's Successful Track Record

Since its first project in 2010, ARISE IIP has embarked on a remarkable journey, leaving an indelible mark on the African continent. Beginning with the signing of a momentous MOU with the Gabonese Republic, ARISE IIP swiftly expanded its footprint, now operating in Gabon, Benin, Togo, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, DRC, Chad, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. Their inaugural industrial zone, the Gabon Special Economic Zone, was Africa's first carbon-neutral certified zone.

The vertically integrated industrial zones act as catalysts for thriving value chains, seamlessly connecting raw material sourcing, resource transformation, manufacturing, and final product exports. Each industrial zone is tailored and adapted to the local operating environment.

ARISE IIP's vision extends beyond mere industrial development; they strive to foster highly integrated and sustainable zones that contribute to the growth of Africa as a whole. Guided by its mission to create one million jobs by 2030, ARISE IIP has already made substantial strides in employment generation during its current operational phase.

Key Sectors and Opportunities in ZIC

The expanding population in Côte d'Ivoire is driving demand in various industries such as energy production, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), transportation, communications, electronics, and home appliances. The National Development Plan (Plan National de Développement (PND)) further supports the sustainable growth of the manufacturing and logistics sector, offering detailed plans for structural reforms.

ZIC offers a range of growth possibilities, including increasing local cashew processing, bridging the primary and secondary processing gap in rubber production, tapping into the global demand for cassava starch, and establishing more shea butter processing facilities. The booming real estate and infrastructure sectors, driven by high population growth and urbanization, create opportunities for housing development and infrastructure projects.

With the rising demand for pharmaceutical products and the government's promotion of local production through the National Development Plan, the pharmaceutical sector presents untapped potential. Strengthening post-production mechanisms, expanding distribution centres, and meeting the increasing demand for consumer goods like home appliances and electronics are additional avenues for success.

Incentives for Investors

ZIC offers a comprehensive array of incentives to attract and support investors. With a self-contained environment providing every manufacturing-related resource, efficient supply chain linkages, and well-designed waste management enclosures, investors can expect streamlined operations and environmental sustainability.

- Comprehensive resources for manufacturing
- Industrial training centres and sector-specific programs
- Spatially optimised land development
- Efficient logistical system for supply chain streamlining
- Robust external infrastructure connectivity
- Quality electricity & water supply available, and sustainable storage systems
- Effective waste segregation and management
- Incentives and subsidies for small and medium-scale manufacturers.

ZIC presents a unique strategic opportunity for astute investors seeking to capitalize on the thriving business landscape of Côte d'Ivoire. With its expansive industrial ecosystem, cutting-edge infrastructure and investor-friendly incentives, it is poised to be the epicentre of economic growth in the region. Don't miss the chance to establish your footprint in this dynamic and rapidly expanding market.

Learn more about how you can harness the strategic advantages offered by ZIC and secure your position in the economic hotspot of Côte d'Ivoire by connecting with us today.



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CONCEIVE



Passports, visas and other travel information

A valid passport is required with at least six months' validity beyond your intended departure from Côte d'Ivoire.

You will need a visa to enter Côte d'Ivoire as a visitor. Anyone wishing to enter Côte d'Ivoire who does not already have a visa should make their visa application through the e-visa service online before travel. This is available in English. If you are not an ECOWAS national, you must hold a valid visa or have had your application for an e-visa approved for Côte d'Ivoire before you travel.

You will need to apply for the e-visa online several days before your date of travel to allow time for your application to be processed. Make sure you follow instructions on the website carefully to avoid any difficulties with airlines or immigration authorities. After registering and paying online, you will be able to collect your visa on arrival at Abidjan airport.

On arrival, you may be required to register your contact details before exiting the airport at the 'Stop COVID-19' facility.

You will need to show a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate on arrival at the airport. Check requirements by visiting the National Travel Health Network and TravelHealthPro website.

Immigration authorities may ask for proof of accommodation (hotel reservation) and a return ticket.

It's crucial to verify these requirements with the official government websites or contact the Embassy or Consulate of Côte d'Ivoire for the most up-to-date information. Keep in mind that travel regulations can change, and it's always best to check closer to your travel date for any updates or changes in requirements.

Currency

The currency in Côte d'Ivoire is the CFA franc, also sometimes written as XOF. Avoid exchanging large quantities of CFA francs for foreign currency anywhere other than reputable exchange bureaus.



Be aware

You should carry photo ID while you are travelling in Côte d'Ivoire. This is a requirement for both locals and all foreign nationals.

It is more important than ever to get travel insurance and check it provides sufficient cover. See the FCDO's guidance on foreign travel insurance.

Protests and demonstrations in the country may occur. You should exercise caution and avoid all demonstrations, large crowds, political gatherings and rallies.

There is an increased risk of terrorism and kidnap in northern border areas, due to the porous nature of borders into the Sahel region.

Be particularly vigilant and take care when travelling by road, especially at night.

Tax and customs: the practicalities

Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Through these organisations, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted broad economic, import, customs, tariffs, and export regulations.

Corporate Income Tax

The corporate income tax rate is set at 25%. This rate applies to both resident and non-resident companies operating within the country.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

The standard VAT rate is 18%, but some goods and services are subject to reduced rates or exemptions. VAT is generally calculated on the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) value of the goods. It is essential for importers to understand the specific tax rates applicable to their products.

Withholding Tax

Withholding tax is levied on various types of income, such as dividends, interest, royalties and technical service fees. The withholding tax rates can vary, with dividends typically taxed at 15%, interest at 20% and royalties at 15%. However, tax treaties between Côte d'Ivoire and the UK may impact these rates and businesses should consider seeking professional advice to navigate these complexities.

Personal Income Tax

Individuals engaged in trade or business activities are subject to Personal Income Tax (PIT). The rates for PIT range from 0% to 35%, depending on the income bracket. UK traders should be aware of their tax liabilities as individuals operating within Côte d'Ivoire.

Tax Incentives and Exemptions

To encourage foreign investment, Côte d'Ivoire offers certain tax incentives and exemptions. These incentives may include reduced corporate income tax rates, exemptions on certain types of income, and other benefits.

Transfer Pricing

Côte d'Ivoire has transfer pricing regulations to ensure that transactions between related parties are conducted at arm's length. This is particularly relevant for UK companies with subsidiaries, branches or other entities in Côte d'Ivoire. Compliance with transfer pricing rules is essential to avoid penalties and ensure a fair distribution of profits in line with local regulations.



Customs duties

Customs duties rates range from 0% to 35%, depending on the classification of the imported goods according to the customs tariff.

Upon import, goods are also subject to the statistical duty (1%), to the community solidarity levy (0.8%), to African Union import tax (0.2%), to community levy (0.5%), and to VAT (18%). Special taxes, depending on the nature of the imported goods, may apply, such as excise duties.

Statistical duty

The statistical duty is levied together with the customs duties during the customs clearance procedures of imported goods. The rate of the statistical duty is 1% on the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) value of the imported goods.

Community levy

The community levy is due together with the customs duties during the customs clearance procedures of imported goods.

The rate of the ECOWAS community levy is set at 0.5% on the CIF value of the imported goods.

Products imported from outside the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) remain subject to the community levy at 0.8%.

The community levy does not apply to goods imported from member countries of the WAEMU.

African Union import duty

A duty called the African Union import tax applies on imports of items outside the African Union at the rate of 0.2%.

Excise duties

Excise duties apply on cigarette imports, alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages and oil products.

Excise duties on tobacco are extended by the FY22 Financial Law to electronic cigarettes, pipes and their parts, preparations for pipes and products and materials for shisha and electronic cigarettes. Under the FY23 Financial Law, the rate was raised from 40% to 41%.

The FY19 Financial Law has extended excise duties (10%) to tourism vehicles with at least 13 horsepower.

Under the FY21 Financial Law, excise duties (10% or 50%) are applied to perfume and cosmetic products. The 50% rate was reduced to 15% under the 2022 tax schedule.

Other taxes

- Real estate tax
- Transfer taxes
- Stamp duty
- Payroll taxes
- Social security contributions
- Special tax for equipment
- Business franchise tax
- Tax on banking operations
- Registration taxes
- Tax on insurance premiums
- Tax on telecommunications companies and services
- Surtax on rent
- Tax on AV equipment.

Safety and security

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against all travel to:

- Within 40km of the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso
- Northern Zanzan and Savanes provinces
- Comoé National Park

You should carry photo ID while you are travelling in Côte d'Ivoire, including in Abidjan. This is a requirement for locals as well as all foreign nationals.

Protests and demonstrations in the country may occur and should be avoided. There is an increased risk of terrorism and kidnap in northern border areas.

The British Embassy in Abidjan can provide emergency consular assistance but note that consular support is not available in parts of Côte d'Ivoire where the FCDO advises against all but essential travel.

The Overseas Business Risk service offers information and advice for British companies operating overseas on how to manage political, economic and business security-related risks.

Medical treatment of a reasonable standard is available in Abidjan but it can be expensive and emergency facilities are limited to a few major hospitals. Medical facilities outside the major towns are often rudimentary. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

Malaria is endemic and there have been dengue fever cases in Abidjan. UK health authorities have classified Côte d'Ivoire as having a risk of Zika virus transmission.



Your partner insurer for
the construction industry



As a mutual insurer, the SMABTP Group has been solidly rooted in the world of construction and property **for more than 160 years.**

SMABTP is fully committed to providing its clients on a daily basis to support them in their professional and personal lives. In this way, it is able to provide them with **services and products tailored specifically to their needs**, as well as **innovative solutions** that meet the challenges of their industry.

The success of SMABTP in delivering these solutions relies ultimately on **the commitment of its teams** and their constant quest for excellence and quality.

Dedicated to the construction sector for 160 years

While the construction industry has never been more safety and security conscious than the present day, it is still impossible to work in this sector without risk. This is why it is so critical to have the right people on your side when it comes to insuring your business so it can keep doing what it does best, long into the future.

Created 160 years ago for professionals in the building, public works and property sectors, the SMABTP group has become the benchmark insurer in the construction sector. Drawing on its great breadth and depth of experience, the SMABTP group offers innovative contracts that can be adapted to the challenges and needs of each individual and individual company. The SMABTP group's technical expertise is second to none, and it always listens carefully to each company's needs in order to offer them the best solutions.

SMABTP group has experts in every stage of the construction process, covering the entire risk chain within a company. The company analyses your needs and recommends the most appropriate solution; they then provide you with day-to-day support in managing your contracts and handling claims.

SMABTP Côte d'Ivoire SA works with its customers and partners from its offices in Abidjan.



LRA - Bettie Road



SMABTP group's products

SMABTP group has a full range of products for the construction sector. Below is an overview of those products but the company always works individually with its customers to create a portfolio of products perfectly suited to their business.

Worksite insurance

This policy is designed to cover professional project owners and investors. The policy covers various types of building site: flat blocks, offices, shops, hotels, educational establishments, hospital buildings, social and cultural facilities, etc., whether for new construction or renovation operations.

It also offers maximum protection that adapts to the characteristics of the worksite and its progress. It allows you to build an insurance solution based on your real needs, site by site.

Civil liability insurance

The civil liability insurance for construction companies policy is intended for all building and public works companies, regardless of their size or the way they operate (subcontracting, consortium, etc.).

It covers payment for material damage to the construction work you are carrying out and/or the materials and supplies you own, when this damage is the result of fire, explosion, lightning strikes or the effects of wind caused by storms, hurricanes or cyclones.

Business multi-risk insurance

The business multi-risk insurance policy is a multi-risk policy specially designed to cover business premises and their contents. It covers all types of premises used for business purposes: warehouses, offices, manufacturing workshops, storage areas, etc. It also covers the various types of contents: machinery, tools, it equipment, stocks, etc.

Decennial insurance contract

Ten-year insurance is a fundamental guarantee for the stakeholders in the construction industry. It covers the cost of repairs in the event of damage to a building structure for a period of 10 years following acceptance of the work.

Machine breakdown insurance

The purpose of machine breakdown insurance is to compensate you for damage to your machines in the event of a claim, such as accidental damage to your machines while in operation, parked, being transported or during loading and unloading operations.

Home insurance

When you rent or own a house or flat, taking out home insurance is essential to insure your home and personal belongings in the event of a claim.



PFO AFRICA - Ivoire Trade Center



Machinery insurance

Whether you rent or own it, your site machinery must be insured, both for damage it may suffer and for damage it may cause to third parties.

Accident compensation insurance

The provident scheme agreed in the building and civil engineering sector provides a number of guarantees to supplement the benefits paid by social security in the event of illness, disability or death.

Health insurance contract

The purpose of the group health insurance contract is to guarantee the reimbursement of basic and supplementary health care expenses (dental care, optical care, maternity care, care abroad) to members of the policyholder's staff aged 60 and their dependents.

Motor insurance contract

This policy has been specially designed to insure company vehicle fleets; all vehicles and uses, both professional and private, are covered. The policy offers a wide range of cover, allowing you to choose the level of protection best suited to the vehicles in your fleet.



History of the SMABTP Group

- 1859** Parisian bricklayers set up the mutual insurance company, the forerunner of SMABTP, against accidents at work and personal injury arising out of the performance of the work.
- 1923** Invention of the inherent defects insurance (IDI) contract, which provides building owners with a longterm warranty against material damage caused by structural defects.
- 1989** SMABTP acquires ASEFA in Spain, an insurance company specialising in construction.
- 1994** Creation of the Excellence SMA corporate foundation dedicated to risk prevention in the construction industry.
- 2011** SMABTP expands into Portugal with the acquisition of VICTORIA.
- 2017** Establishment in Belgium and Côte d'Ivoire with the creation of insurance policies specifically for Belgian and Ivorian professionals.
- 2023** SMABTP Group became the majority shareholder in DUPI Group B.V. enabling it to establish in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany.



SMABTP Group key figures in 2022

- Group Turnover of £3 billion (2,3 billion FCFA)
- Côte d'Ivoire Office turnover of £5.9 million (4,540 million FCFA)
- 4000+ employees
- £7.3 billion in shareholder equity (S2 eligible)
- 320% solvency ratio
- £22 billion in assets under management (17 billion FCFA)
- A+, outlook stable - Financial rating SMA SA and SMABTP (Fitch ratings).



FIND OUT MORE AT

www.smabtp.ci





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export.org.uk



Sector-specific opportunities in Côte d'Ivoire

Mining

The government has one of the most attractive mining codes in the world, aimed at encouraging foreign investment in the sector.

Côte d'Ivoire is a significant player in the global gold mining industry and one of the top gold producers in Africa. The country has made efforts to improve its mining regulatory framework to attract more investment. It has witnessed increased exploration activities, and several new projects have been launched.

Côte d'Ivoire has also been working to diversify its mineral resources beyond gold. Some exploration projects have been initiated for other minerals, including iron ore, nickel and bauxite. These efforts aim to make the mining sector more resilient and reduce its dependence on a single commodity.

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) plays a significant role in the Ivorian mining sector, particularly in gold production. The government has made efforts to formalise and regulate this sector to ensure it contributes to the country's economy while minimising its negative impacts.

Manufacturing

Côte d'Ivoire's manufacturing sector is diverse, encompassing a wide range of industries, and it plays a crucial role in the country's economic development and diversification. The government has established various industrial zones and parks to promote and facilitate manufacturing activities. These zones often provide infrastructure, tax incentives and other benefits to try and attract both domestic and foreign investors.

The manufacturing sector covers a broad spectrum of industries, including food processing, textiles and apparel, chemicals, plastics, pharmaceuticals, construction materials and more. Food and beverage processing, especially cocoa and palm oil, is a significant part of the manufacturing sector, given the country's strong agricultural base. Côte d'Ivoire has been successful in attracting foreign investment in its manufacturing sector, particularly in agro-processing and textiles. The government's efforts to create a more business-friendly environment have encouraged foreign companies to establish production facilities in the country.

Côte d'Ivoire is increasingly conscious of the environmental impact of its manufacturing activities. Efforts are being made to incorporate sustainable and eco-friendly practices into manufacturing processes, particularly in the agro-processing and timber sectors.

Services Sector

Côte d'Ivoire has a diverse and growing services sector that plays a significant role in the country's economy. The services sector encompasses a wide range of activities, including finance, tourism, telecommunications, and more.

Finance and Banking

The financial services sector in Côte d'Ivoire has experienced significant growth in recent years. Abidjan, the country's largest city, is considered a financial hub in West Africa. The Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) regulates the country's banking and financial institutions.

Telecommunications and Information Technology:

The telecommunications sector in Côte d'Ivoire has seen remarkable expansion and modernisation, with multiple mobile network operators and internet service providers. Mobile phone penetration is high, and the country has witnessed a rapid increase in mobile banking services and digital payment solutions. Internet connectivity and access to technology are improving, contributing to the growth of the IT and software development industry.



Tourism and Hospitality

Côte d'Ivoire has a diverse range of tourism offerings, including beautiful beaches, national parks, cultural festivals, and historical sites. Tourism has been identified as a priority sector for economic development and the government is investing in infrastructure and promoting the country as a tourist destination. The hospitality sector is expanding with an increasing number of hotels, resorts, and restaurants catering to both domestic and international tourists.

Retail and Wholesale Trade

The retail and wholesale trade sectors have seen growth due to the country's rising population and expanding middle class. The development of modern shopping malls and supermarkets, as well as the presence of international retail chains, has improved consumer options and convenience.

Professional Services

Legal, accounting and consulting services are in demand, particularly from businesses and foreign investors operating in Côte d'Ivoire. There is a growing market for consulting and advisory firms specialising in various sectors, including agriculture, energy and infrastructure.

Transport and Logistics

Côte d'Ivoire's strategic location on the West African coast has made it a transportation and logistics hub for the region. The country has modern ports, including the Port of Abidjan, which is one of the largest and busiest in West Africa. The government has been investing in improving road infrastructure, railways and airports to facilitate trade and logistics.

Healthcare and Education

The government is working to improve access to quality healthcare and education services for its citizens.

Energy Production and Distribution

The government is implementing an ambitious plan to triple generation capacity and improve distribution networks by 2030. The country has traditionally based its energy supply on a combination of gas-fired generation and hydro-power. But rising demand is driving the diversification of the country's energy mix. A strong electricity infrastructure has helped to provide a solid platform for growth in recent years.

Côte d'Ivoire is the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to leverage the use of independent power producers for its electricity generation. This allows an easy access to the market to foreign companies. UK businesses have been involved in the energy sector in the country for decades and contribute to 30% of the existing electricity production capacity.

The country has ambitions to achieve 42% of its energy mix from renewable energy sources by 2030. Opportunities include wind, solar PV and solar home systems (including design, engineering and construction); biomass power plant, recycling and energy from waste; grid optimisation, electrical networks and metering. The government is also looking for assistance in the prospection and exploration of oil and gas reserves.

Agriculture

The National Development Plan aims to use agricultural processing as the main lever for future prosperity and growth. UK expertise is in demand to help deliver this strategy. There is demand for expertise in agri-technology, techniques to increase land productivity and value-added processing, with a focus on key sectors like cocoa, coffee, cashew, cotton, shea nuts, export fruits (bananas, pineapples, and mangos), rubber and palm oil.

Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest cocoa producer. The country's cocoa production has a major impact on the global chocolate industry. The country also produces coffee, primarily of the robusta variety, and is a major producer of oil palm products, rubber, cotton and food. There is also significant livestock farming and fisheries.

The agriculture sector faces several pressing challenges, including very outdated farming techniques, limited access to modern technologies and vulnerability to climate change.

Construction

Growing urbanism levels increases pressure on access to public services such as schools, hospitals, roads and affordable houses. In addition Côte d'Ivoire plans to develop industrial infrastructure, such as integrated industrial zones, to support its industrialisation strategy. The country has recently developed major projects in these areas.

In addition to seeking quality work, the government is interested in the technical support and skills transfer that UK businesses can offer. For example, British company NMS Infrastructure (NMSI) recently signed a €326 million contract to build six hospitals throughout the country.

Infrastructure investors have recently shown a strong interest for projects in Côte d'Ivoire. As a result, there is a wide range of available financial instruments that UK businesses could have access to while delivering a project in the country.

The government has been investing in infrastructure development such as roads, bridges, ports, airports, energy facilities, and housing. The construction of highways and bridges, in particular, has been a priority to improve transportation and connectivity within the country. The government has also undertaken initiatives to address the housing shortage by promoting affordable housing projects. Private real estate developers are also active in the market.

The growing economy has spurred the development of commercial and industrial facilities, such as the construction of factories, warehouses, shopping malls and office buildings. There is a growing emphasis on sustainable construction practices in Côte d'Ivoire. Green building principles and eco-friendly construction materials are increasingly being used and adopted to reduce the environmental impact of construction projects.



BILE-AKA, BRIZOUA-BI & ASSOCIES

Bilé-Aka, Brizoua-Bi & Associés is a law firm based in Abidjan but with an international reach, which advises its clients in a wide range of legal matters and arbitration disputes.

The firm has established close collaborative ties with the most renowned firms on the continent and with other major legal and financial centres of the world. This enables the firm to meet the growing needs of customers in terms of international operations, and reflects the requirements of the new business environment created by regional integration, the harmonization of business law, and the upgrading of the legal standards of legislation in OHADA (Treaty on the Harmonization of Law of Business in Africa) member countries.

Founded in 2000, the team now comprises twenty lawyers, consultants and jurists, and the extent of its international network allows it to offer high-quality assistance in resolving national, community or international law issues.

Areas of expertise

Bilé-Aka, Brizoua-Bi & Associés is organised into four main departments:

Litigation and Arbitration department

Headed by
Joachim Bilé-Aka

International and Projects department

Headed by
Michel Brizoua-Bi

Social and Labour Law department

Headed by
Isabelle Sokolo-Boni

Tax Department

In more detail, business areas covered include:

- Arbitration, mediation and litigation
- Corporate law and governance
- Competition law
- Taxation and transfer pricing
- Banking and financial law
- Mining and oil law
- Foreign direct investment
- Negotiation and drafting of contracts
- Community law
- Legal and judicial assistance to States
- Public and private partnership
- Criminal law of business affairs
- Social rights
- Telecommunications and media
- Intellectual property
- Air transport
- Anti-corruption and compliance regulations

The firm works in both English and French.



The wider perspective

Michel Brizoua-Bi explains the role of Brizoua-Bi & Associés in the wider OHADA community

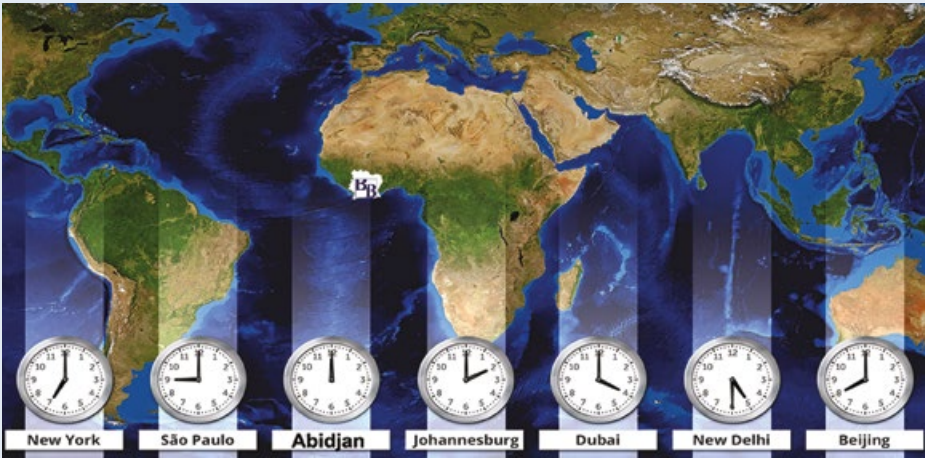
Regional firm, international reach

“Today, we are players in a market which is clearly regional and which was born from the desire of the member states of OHADA (Organization for the Harmonization of Business

Law in Africa) to harmonize business law in 17 States. From the start of the creation of this house, our DNA is to be players of choice at the local level, but also to be actors of choice for transactions or for needs that may arise outside of this national market.

I have never forgotten the experience I had in the DRC, when Canadian actors told us that for a specific transaction, given our experience in OHADA business law, they wanted us to be at the centre of this transaction. It was successful for us. This was the clear answer to the question we asked ourselves when we founded this structure: what are we going to bring to this market? For us, the fact of benefiting from this support in a territory where we were not established was the demonstration of the relevance of our approach and at the same time proof that there was a real need to go beyond the borders that were created with the independence of our countries.

We are faced with the birth of a true single market of law which should allow for actors from all these countries to intervene or support their clients, because contrary to what The European Union has been able to do in terms of building community rules and in terms of harmonisation, African states have unified their business law. This therefore constitutes, for us, the real opportunity – but also a huge challenge. However, this should be a long-term goal for us: to no longer be perceived as only an Ivorian firm, but as a major firm from the OHADA zone.



Partnerships

We have correspondents and partners in practically all the major centres on the continent. We have partners outside Africa, in Paris, notably the FIDAL firm and many others. We cannot progress in this profession without partnerships. They must be intelligent, respectful of ethical rules and win-win. When we understand this, we organise ourselves in such a way that we can firstly be a contact of choice for these partners and bring, based on our know-how and from our experience, real added value to these partners.

Even in the OHADA market which includes 17 countries, Africa is a market that is very diverse. The business culture in some of our countries is very different and so are the economic realities. The major element which must guide us are the needs of our clients and our capacity to satisfy them.

Success stories

We are experiencing this type of success story every day, whenever we are consulted on cross-border issues. And we also owe this to the quality of the correspondents and partners we have in different countries. Today we very frequently receive a request from a member state of OHADA to intervene in a litigation file which has nothing to do with Ivory Coast, or transactions that come to us from Western countries who believe they need a mixed team, both European and African, to support the realisation of this or that project in a country which is not necessarily Ivory Coast.

It is, for me, the indisputable sign that the level of qualification of African actors is recognised. We know that there was a sort of complex that had developed in certain places, but today, clients have realised a strong rise in local skills which no longer justifies the use of firms who, despite their familiarity with the African continent, are not practitioners in our countries. We hope to be able to maintain this course and ensure that in our countries, equally respected firms are born, as large as those we see in the West; that the question of supporting investors in Africa is no longer posed in terms of 'will we have a firm capable of understanding the issues locally, supporting and dealing with all those issues?' - because the level of training, organisation and integrity of the actor will be questions which will disappear from the radar.

In the Ivorian market in which I operate, and even outside the legal market, Ivory Coast stands out for the quality of its human resources. I believe this is something that is recognised in Africa and even outside Africa. The legal market manages a significant number of colleagues who have been trained locally and who are excellent, who are even sought after by international firms. There are also a high level of Ivorian professionals working abroad in large firms, some of whom are returning, meaning that the question of the quality of our structures no longer arises."



The Senior Team



Joachim Bilé-Aka

Joachim Bilé-Aka is a Lawyer at the Ivory Coast Bar. He is a Co-founding Partner and Head of the Litigation and Arbitration Department within Bilé-Aka, Brizoua-Bi & Associés. Former President of the Bar,

he is the initiator of the Regulations Relating to the Harmonization of the Rules Governing the Profession of Lawyer in the UEMOA Area. He is a member of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce of Paris, a member of the Arbitration Committee of the Lagos Court of Arbitration, member of the French Arbitration Association, and member of the International Arbitration commission of the International Union of Lawyers. He regularly pleads as a lawyer before the Ivorian State Courts, but also abroad, and before the Arbitration Courts in proceedings opposing State parties. He is a Knight of the National Order of Côte d'Ivoire.



Francine DASSE

Since joining the firm BILE-AKA, BRIZOUA-BI & ASSOCIÉS in March 2015 as a lawyer, Francine DASSE has developed a regular practice in the areas of legal and judicial assistance. In this

context, it provides information, advice, defense before the courts and drafting of documents to clients, individuals and legal entities. She particularly has significant experience in institutional and ad-hoc arbitration. Appointed arbitrator in several arbitration proceedings in Côte d'Ivoire, Maître Francine DASSE also undertakes arbitrations on behalf of the firm's clients and ensures their defense before arbitral tribunals, in particular before arbitral tribunals constituted under the aegis of the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration (CCJA) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).



Michel Brizoua-Bi

Michel Brizoua-Bi is Head of the Financing and International Projects Department at Bilé-Aka, Brizoua-Bi & Associés. He is: Chairman of the Board of Directors of Stanbic Bank Côte

d'Ivoire (Standard Bank Group); Chairman of the Governance Committee, Confederation of African Football (CAF); advising large local and international banks for the drafting and negotiation of their credit transactions; offers local advice to foreign investors for their projects in Ivory Coast and French-speaking Africa; and provides advice for international airlines operating in Ivory Coast.



Isabelle Sokolo-Boni

Isabelle SOKOLO BONI joined the Bilé-Aka, Brizoua-Bi & Associés firm in October 2005 as an associate and then was co-opted as an Associate in February 2016.

She specializes in advice and litigation in social matters, while developing training and running seminars in this area. She actively participated in the work towards the adoption of the labor code which entered into force in July 2015. To face the challenges of the profession and international demand, she worked on European implementation projects as well as on Pan-African restructuring projects. She also supports certain companies as well as individuals in commercial and administrative disputes. She works mainly in French but also in English. She has been a member of the International Union of Lawyers (UIA) since 2009 and of the Commissions (i) Employment and Social Relations as well as (ii) Governance, Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility of the Ivorian Employers.



Jean Yves Berte
Collaborating Lawyer



Constant Kimou
Collaborating Lawyer



Simplicie Kassi
Collaborating Lawyer



Bruno Wale
Collaborating Lawyer



N'Gouan Edwige
Collaborating Lawyer



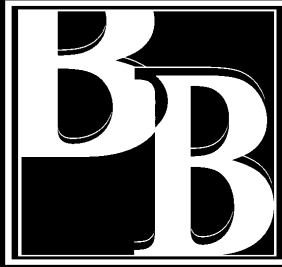
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Know the culture

The culture of Côte d'Ivoire is a melting pot of various ethnic groups and traditions. Over 60 distinct ethnic groups call the country home, with the Baoulé, Bété, Senufo, and Malinké being among the largest. This diversity is reflected in the country's cuisine, music, dance, and art. Traditional masks, sculptures, and textiles are highly regarded for their artistic value.

French is the official language, a legacy of the country's colonial history under French rule. However, many Ivoirians also speak indigenous languages such as Dioula, Baoulé and Bété.

Religions have a strong influence on life in Côte d'Ivoire, which has a tradition of respecting different beliefs and faiths. You should respect local religious customs and traditions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure they do not cause offence. There are conservative standards of dress and behaviour in the country. It is prohibited to take photographs near sensitive installations, including military sites and government buildings, e.g. radio and TV stations, the Presidency building, airport, de Gaulle and Houphouët-Boigny bridges in Abidjan.

Homosexuality is not illegal in Côte d'Ivoire, but the law does not recognise same-sex partnerships or marriages. Public attitudes may be less tolerant and there are no specific anti-discrimination laws protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals.

One of the defining features of the business culture in Côte d'Ivoire is the emphasis on relationships. Building trust and cultivating strong interpersonal connections is crucial. Côte d'Ivoire has a hierarchical society, and this is reflected in its business culture. Respect for authority and seniority is highly valued, and decision-making processes may be hierarchical, so it is essential to understand the chain of command within organisations. Politeness and courtesy are also highly valued.



Transport

As a crucial hub in the region, the country's transport system plays a vital role in facilitating trade, connecting urban and rural areas, and fostering the country's economic development.

Road

Road transportation is the backbone of Côte d'Ivoire's transport system, carrying the majority of both passengers and goods. The government has invested significantly in road infrastructure development, leading to improved connectivity and reduced travel times. The Abidjan-Yamoussoukro Highway, a major artery, connects the economic capital Abidjan with the political capital Yamoussoukro and continues on to Bouaké, contributing significantly to the country's economic integration. However, challenges such as maintenance issues, traffic congestion and road safety remain areas of concern that demand ongoing attention and investment.

Beyond Abidjan, driving standards and road conditions can be poor. Roads and vehicles can be poorly lit and there is the risk of stray livestock. During the rainy season, some roads may become impassable. Driving standards and vehicle maintenance on public transport can be poor. Taxis are available in main cities.

Rail

Côte d'Ivoire has a developing railway system that primarily supports the transportation of goods, especially in the mining and agricultural sectors. The railway network connects key production areas with ports and facilitates the export of commodities.





Air

Côte d'Ivoire has a well-developed air transportation network, with Félix Houphouët-Boigny International Airport in Abidjan serving as a major aviation hub. Regional airports, such as those in Bouaké and San Pedro, support domestic flights, facilitating connectivity within the country.

Sea

The country has several ports, with the Port of Abidjan being the largest and most significant. It serves as a major gateway for imports and exports. The government has implemented reforms to enhance port efficiency and competitiveness. Investments in port infrastructure and technology have led to improved cargo handling and reduced turnaround times for vessels.





Help and Support

Index of key organisations



DBT

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) provides trade and investment services and practical support, helping UK companies succeed in Côte d'Ivoire. Find information and advice on the practicalities of export, export opportunities, events for exporters and international buyers, and export finance and related guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/department-for-business-and-trade-cote-divoire>



IOE&IT

The Institute of Export & International Trade (IOE&IT) is the leading association for exporters and importers, offering the assistance, support and guidance you need to trade in Côte d'Ivoire. This applies as much to a microbusiness trading abroad for the first time as it does a large business with a multi-million pound, multi-country trading portfolio.

+44 1733 404400 / info@export.org.uk



British Embassy
Abidjan

British Embassy

If you need urgent help (for example, you've been attacked, arrested or someone has died), call +225 27 2244 2669.



UK Export Finance

<https://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/>

Sources

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