ALSF AT A GLANCE

AFRICAN LEGAL SUPPORT FACILITY

ENHANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN AFRICA
**The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) is an international organization dedicated to providing legal advice and technical assistance to African countries in matters pertaining to creditor litigation and complex commercial transactions.**

The goal of the Facility is to remove asymmetric technical capacities and level the field of legal expertise among parties during litigation and negotiations. The Facility strives to further development in Africa by removing obstacles to realizing the benefits of debt relief through its work in vulture fund litigation. It also provides advisory services to improve the negotiating capabilities of its member countries. Through all of its activities, the Facility aims to build additional legal capacity on the continent.

**Mission**

To provide legal advice and capacity building to African countries on vulture fund litigation, complex commercial negotiations, and related sovereign transactions.

**ADVISORY SERVICES**

The Facility helps African governments to strengthen their legal expertise and negotiating capacities, particularly in the areas of natural resources and extractive industries, investment agreements, and public-private partnerships (PPPs), including large-scale infrastructure projects and other, related complex commercial and business transactions.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

The ALSF provides assistance to develop legal capacities throughout the continent. Its capacity building model focuses on a real transfer of knowledge and skills development to nationals by means of workshops, conferences, seminars, and other such activities. To date, the Facility has trained over 3,000 African experts in commercial legal issues from more than 45 African states.

**CREDITOR LITIGATION**

The Facility provides African countries with financial resources to obtain specialist legal assistance for the negotiation and settlement or litigation of creditor claims. The aim is to ensure that they achieve equitable outcomes that allow them to full realize the benefits of the HIC Relief Initiative.

**KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

The ALSF provides assistance relating to the development, collection, and management of knowledge products, including academic and legal manuals and publications, model documents and transaction facilitation tools, databases of case law, legislation, and contracts.
As of 31 December 2017, the ALSF had cumulatively approved USD 60.6 million for **154 operations in more than 40 African countries.**

**What we do**

**Historical Overview of the ALSF Operations**

**Evolution of the Operations**

**Cumulative Operations by Priority Areas**

- Capacity Building: 62%
- Advisory Services: 23%
- Litigation Knowledge Management: 12%
- Other: 3%

**Cumulative Operations by Region**

- North: 2.7M USD
- West: 22.9M USD
- Central: 8.7M USD
- East: 15.8M USD
- Southern: 3.7M USD
- Regional projects: 10.0M USD

**Cumulative Operations by Sectors**

- Infrastructure and PPPs: 27.7M USD
- Extractives: 21.5M USD
- Sovereign Debt: 8.1M USD
- Other: 3.2M USD
What We Do

Overview of the ALSF Operations in 2017

A total of 36 new projects were started in 2017 with a total value of USD 13.5 million.

Operations by Priority Areas:
- Advisory Services: 62%
- Capacity Building: 34%
- Knowledge Management: 4%

Operations by Sector:
- Extractives: 50%
- Infrastructure & PPPs: 44%
- Sovereign Debt: 6%

Operations by Region:
- West: 37%
- East: 30%
- Central: 7%
- Southern: 6%
- Regional: 20%
With the support of the ALSF, the Government of Rwanda successfully signed a Concession Agreement for the construction and operation of the new airport, positioning Kigali to become a nerve centre for business and, travel, in the sub-region.

Estimated to cost **USD 700 million**, the Airport project is designed to be executed across four phases. The first phase will involve approximately 27 months of construction—at an estimated cost of USD 400 million. It is expected to be completed by 2019, at which point the airport will be able to accommodate 1.8 million passengers annually.

The development of Bugesera Airport is aligned with Rwanda’s Vision 2020—an ambitious strategy which aims to transform Rwanda into a knowledge-based, middle-income country by the end of the decade.

The project also conforms to the country’s Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy.

As such, the Project is designed and is being implemented with the aim of generating socio-economic development in Bugesera, Kigali, and other parts of the Eastern Province. The airport will further sustain the development of the aviation sector by backstopping the growth of RwandAir with new facilities and training opportunities. The project is expected to provide approximately 2,000 jobs for local residents.

“When we approached the ALSF, they swiftly helped us procure the required expertise to structure the project such that it attracts private capital. Since then, we’ve had many banks express interest in joining the project. The ALSF grant also includes a capacity building component which ensures that the procured experts will train Rwandans to monitor the project’s development, as well as to structure future projects in a similar manner.”

Emmanuel Rugambwa, Rwanda Development Board
Following a series of inconclusive negotiations, the Government of Uganda expressed a need for legal counsel, due to previously-scheduled and fast-approaching negotiations. The Facility approved a grant for technical support on 14 June 2017 to consolidate and enhance the process. And in July 2017, Uganda chose a consortium to build and operate a crude oil refinery, which will eventually process oil from fields being developed by Total SA and Tullow Oil Plc.

Staff of the ALSF attended the first round of negotiations between the Ugandan Government and the selected Consortium, which took place in August 2017. These negotiations produced a Project Framework Agreement with well-elaborated timelines and apportioned responsibilities.

The refinery, located in Hoima district in the Western region, is billed to double its crude processing capacity from 30,000 to 60,000 barrels per day. Beginning in 2020, the plant will be supplied by fields with over 6.5 billion barrels of crude, being exploited by Total, London-based Tullow and China’s CNOOC Ltd.

“The support which the ALSF has extended to Uganda in negotiations leading to the development of a refinery has been invaluable. The legal, commercial, and technical expertise provided has enriched the negotiation team and greatly enhanced the project implementation speed”.

Peter Muliisa, Uganda National Oil Company
Preparing the Next Generation of African Mining Experts

As African governments seek to leverage their mineral resources strategically for broad, inclusive development—in alignment with the Africa Mining Vision—the need for strong and sustainable legal capacities in the extractive industry is more important than ever. Aware of this growing need, the ALSF organized a 10-day workshop on mining legislation in Nairobi, in cooperation with Strathmore University, Extractives Baraza, and the World Bank.

The workshop provided its 39 participants with an intensive programme of lectures, presentations, field trips, and interactive group exercises, which covered every dimension of the mining industry. The certificates awarded to the participating students—who hail from 23 African universities across the region—reflect the strong technical foundation developed over the course of the workshop. Following assessments made by the Project Coordinators, several of the graduating students will be invited to join the African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA) Program as members of the Legal Research Team (LRT).

The AMLA workshop equipped its participants with a new understanding of the emerging issues which will govern the future of the extractives industry, from transparency and corporate social responsibility to gender balance, labour rights and environmental protection.

“I believe AMLA is important because it’s a platform which unites African lawyers—from different countries, different universities, and indeed different realities—in a space which facilitates the identification of shared solutions to shared problems.”

Kathleen Ubisse Capitine, a graduating member of the AMLA Legal Research Team (LRT)

“The vast mineral wealth of Africa has not been transformed into capital wealth. This is due to region-wide gaps in knowledge, finance, and technology, all of which must be imported from abroad. As a result, African governments have to negotiate with foreign companies and investors, often to their disadvantage. The AMLA platform levels the playing field by providing contemporary examples of African mining regulation, contracts, and laws,”

Fallou Samb, Special Advisor to the President of Senegal