ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN AFRICA
Who we are

Mandate
The African Legal Support Facility 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.

Values
The ALSF is founded on the values of respect for the rule of law, equity, transparency and good governance. These values are grounded on its African ‘character’ as the ALSF is partner of all African countries and respects the diversity of the continent. ALSF’s team is committed to uphold ethics, accountability excellence, professionalism, probity and a team working spirit.

Our 4 Strategic Areas

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 1,000 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.
What we do

Mission

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

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE ALSF OPERATIONS

By the end of 31 December 2016, ALSF had cumulatively committed USD 47 million.

OVERVIEW OF THE ALSF OPERATIONS, 2016

28 new projects amounting to USD 11.3M were launched in 2016.

Summary of the Operations by Priority Areas

Advisory Services
16 projects - 80% of total approvals

Capacity Building
8 projects - 15% of total approvals

Knowledge Management
4 projects - 5% of total approvals

Summary of the operations by sector, 2016

62% Infrastructure and PPP
35% Extractives
3% Sovereign Debt
Stewarding Africa’s Natural Resources for Future Generations

Shaping the Future of Guinea’s Mining Sector

The extractives industry, in particular the mining sector, plays a significant role in Guinea’s economy. It contributes over 20% to the country’s GDP and nearly 90% of its export earnings. However, the sector has the potential to make an even greater contribution to the social and economic transformation of the country. Recognizing this, the Government has embarked on the process of ensuring that its obsolete mining conventions and agreements comply with contemporary international standards and best practice of the extractive industry.

To assist the Government of Guinea, the ALSF is providing support to review and negotiate both new and existing mining contracts. Working with the AfDB, the Facility reviewed 19 mining conventions and titles. Our interventions are helping Guinea to negotiate fair and sustainable contracts that will maximize benefits and bring about inclusive growth in the country.

Unlocking Africa’s Renewable Resource Energy Potential

Taiba N’Diaye Wind Farm in Senegal

The ALSF supported the Government of Senegal in its negotiations of a Power Purchase Agreement, and related agreements, in order to develop a wind farm, the first in the country and the largest in West Africa. The project is located in the rural town of Taiba N’Diaye (région de Thiès) and will produce over 158 MW. Once completed, this project will provide clean, efficient and reliable electricity to the Senegalese grid by increasing generation capacity and helping address Senegal’s electricity shortages.

As the country pushes to become a regional player in renewables on the continent, the Taïba Ndiaye Wind Farm project aligns with the Senegalese government’s objective to achieve 20% renewable energy by 2020, and it is also expected to enhance local employment opportunities in rural areas.
Supporting the Development of Transformational Infrastructure Projects

Bagamoyo Port in Tanzania

Once constructed, the Bagamoyo Port is expected to address the capacity limitations at the existing Dar es Salaam Port, which handles more than 90% of the total volume of imports and exports, accounting for traffic in excess of 10 million tons per year. Specifically, the Bagamoyo Port is set to handle 20 million Twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) by 2045 and will be the largest port in East Africa when completed.

The project is a tri-government venture between Tanzania, China, and Oman and will cost close to USD 10 billion. This new development of the Port in Bagamoyo is expected to stimulate growth and have an impact across a wide range of sectors.

The ALSF is assisting the Government of Tanzania through transaction advisory services in its negotiation with a Chinese company of a deep-water port and special economic zone near Bagamoyo. A Tanzanian law firm, in coordination with an International law firm, is advising the government in this matter.

The ALSF has thus far supported the negotiation of six agreements, in addition to contractual documents related to the development of a seaport and portside industrial zone, as well as draft concession agreements, a framework agreement, terms sheet for the portside economic zone, a joint venture agreement, and a development agreement. On 5 August, 2016, the Government of Tanzania requested additional advisory services in the areas of financial modelling, cargo forecast modelling, and overall capacity building for modelling.
Creating Opportunities in Fragile Situations

Equipping Somali Government Officials to Negotiate Production Sharing Agreements

Somalia’s potential offshore oil and gas reserves have garnered the attention of many international oil companies. The potential of these reserves, if managed well, will provide consistent revenue streams that could catalyze the economic development of Somalia.

To fully benefit from these resources, the Somali government reached out to the ALSF for support in preparing its technical ministries for the negotiation of any potential PSAs if oil or gas reserves are discovered. Working together, the ALSF and Somali government developed a model PSA that will be used as the basis for future negotiations. The ALSF also supported the government in developing a toolkit to supplement the model agreements.

The model agreement and toolkit were presented at a capacity-building workshop where government officials underwent training on negotiating PSAs. The training was conducted in collaboration with a Tanzanian law firm, with input from Kenyan lawyers, international lawyers, and experts from the University of Dundee’s Centre for Energy Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy. With improved training and support, Somalia is more likely to negotiate a fair and balanced transactions in the event of its discovery of oil and gas reserves, deals which will be designed to spur the economic development of the country.

“The training was good and was very important to us as a Ministry because of the new PSA model, which for us is our first time that we had such a model. Now, after the training, we believe that we have gained some knowledge and developed our understanding. It was very essential for us to attend the training because now we believe that we have a team that can go and negotiate using the new PSA model”

Jamal Mursal
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

“Before the workshop, "I thought I am too little for that, my negotiation capacity was small... now I feel like I can lead a team of negotiators,” stated the Upstreams.”

Abdulkadir A. Hussein
Director
Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources
OUR SUCCESSFUL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

UNDERSTANDING POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS AND POWER PROJECT FINANCING HANDBOOKS
http://www.ppaguide.org

The ALSF, in conjunction with Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), USA Department of Commerce gathered a group of leading experts to jointly write two handbooks which explain the role of PPAs and mechanisms to finance power projects. Experts from law firms, the AfDB, the World Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Energy and Water Authority, Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading PLC, and others all provided contributions to the books. The books are now complete and have been published in both English and French. Moreover, the books are being distributed across the continent—over 10,000 copies have already been distributed. The ALSF and CLDP are working on converting the book into a continuing education program.

PPPIRC DATABASE PROJECT
http://www.aflsf.org/node/494

The Facility also partnered with the World Bank’s Public Private Partnership Infrastructure Resource Centre to provide model agreements for PPP projects. Particularly, the ALSF supported the expansion of current materials on the website, the use of standardized provisions in PPP project agreements, the development of new multi-media training materials and additional materials in languages other than English. The website averages over 22,000 visitors per month from 180 countries.

AFRICA MINING LEGISLATION ATLAS (AMLA)
www.a-mla.org

The Facility is financing the Africa Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA) project to collect, process, and make all of Africa’s mining law and regulations available on an online database, complete with interactive features which provide comparative data. This project will also prepare a guiding template with a menu of options and examples for the full range of issues covered under mining law. This project is still on-going and will strengthen the ability of countries to produce strong, consistent, and transparent laws in the field of minerals and mining.