Maude Vallee, Chief Legal Counsel, Acting Head of Operations, African Legal Support Facility

When we [the African Legal Support Facility] are asked to assist African governments in a specific transaction, the first thing we do is look at the institutional and legal frameworks for PPPs. We saw that in the last year, a lot of PPP laws have been adopted. African Governments have responded positively to the call by MDBs on the importance of having quality legal frameworks for PPPs. But did these PPP laws really lead to concrete PPP projects? Outside the ICT and power sectors, which are usually governed by sectoral laws, only about 15 PPP transactions in sub-Saharan Africa have reached financial closure in the last five years. Only one of these projects was within an established PPP framework. Given the time it takes to develop a PPP project it is perhaps too early to see PPP law translate into concrete projects.