

## PROJECTS (FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE) AFRICA

Gide's Projects (Finance & Infrastructure) practice group includes a dedicated team specialising in investment projects in Africa, particularly in the fields of infrastructure, energy and natural resources, with specific expertise, knowledge and experience acquired in private sector participation for financing infrastructure. Gide's experience, gained on a worldwide level, extends to all of the main areas of international public and private infrastructure, including energy, natural resources, transport, water supply, plant construction, sanitation and irrigation, and communications.

Gide lawyers have represented sponsors, lenders and governments in pioneering BOT, concession and privatisations projects in many African countries. On a number of occasions and in several countries, Gide has been involved in successfully closing the first project of its type in a given sector in that country. Notably, Gide was involved in a project for harmonization of African hydrocarbons laws and helped to set up the legal framework for PPPs in several African jurisdictions.

Gide's lawyers possess extensive and detailed knowledge of African regional legal systems and regimes, enabling them to advise on the policies and objectives of regional communities and laws such as those of the **CEDEAO** (Economic Community of West African States), **CEMAC** (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa), **UEMOA** (West African Economic and Monetary Union) and **OHADA** (Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa).

Moreover, Gide has an **unparalleled competence in the 18 countries of North and West Africa** where the official language is French and the **legal systems are mainly based on French law**.

*« A strong practice that continues to excel in francophone and OHADA regions. Has a track record for representing governments, corporate entities and investment funds. Has a depth of experience in M&A, investment transactions and corporate matters related to projects in the oil and gas, banking, automotive and real estate industries. Led from Paris and London with offices in Algiers, Casablanca and Tunis. »*

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### Global Reach, Local Knowledge

Gide expertise in African projects is based upon a team of lawyers spread over two key offices in **Europe (London and Paris)**, three offices in **Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)**, and three offices in **China (Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong)** that have lawyers dedicated to Chinese investments in Africa. Such an international network allows Gide not only to liaise efficiently with its clients but also to assist them on all legal aspects of their African projects, in **civil law and common law countries alike**.

In addition, Gide is in a position to offer its clients advice and assistance in Africa through its network of associated law firms, African Law Firms (in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Mauritius), or through its other close relationships with local leading lawyers throughout Africa.

Gide has furthermore developed in Africa extensive contacts with national administrations and authorities, market operators, as well as a number of international financial organisations and institutions.

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ALGIERS  
BEIJING  
BRUSSELS  
CASABLANCA  
HO CHI MINH CITY  
HONG KONG  
ISTANBUL  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
NEW YORK  
PARIS  
SHANGHAI  
TUNIS  
WARSAW

## Multidisciplinary Teams

Gide has a significant **cross-disciplinary experience of issues specific to African projects**, regularly advising every type of industry player on all aspects of infrastructure deals and financings in the most diverse, innovative and challenging projects in Africa.

Gide's expertise covers all areas of law, including **public law, mining law, oil & gas laws and regulations, financial law, M&A and corporate law, industrial contracts and dispute resolution**.

Gide's experience in Africa is further detailed in the environment, power, oil & gas, mining, regulatory, and infrastructure & transport selected transactions' brochures.

As part of a truly **full-service law firm**, the Projects (Finance & Infrastructure) practice group can seamlessly call upon other Gide teams and specialised groups when required. This helps Gide provide its clients with a full range of business and legal advice, extending well beyond project issues to matters related to corporate, tax, insurance, employment, intellectual property and competition.

## Tailor-made Solutions - From Project Inception to Post-financial Close

- **Legal Due Diligence and Transaction Structuring.** Whether in the context of a negotiated project, an acquisition, a disposal or restructuring, a response to an international tender, or advising on project financing, the team systematically reviews relevant laws, regulations, institutional arrangements and existing documentation to put things in perspective: Gide knows in the African context what makes a project succeed or fail, and what we offer is real, deal-oriented analysis.
- **Project Documentation.** Gide does not force a project into a template. The team has worked on all types of project agreements for a variety of clients, consistently prepares documentation that is tailored to fit the client's needs and specific objectives, and advises on optimizing risk allocation and ensuring project bankability.
- **Financing.** The Projects (Finance & Infrastructure) practice group boasts financial lawyers qualified in France, New York, London and Hong Kong, among other jurisdictions. Gide assists clients at all stages of financing: designing the structure, negotiating the documentation and implementing the deal. Gide advises on the entire range of financial documents on both conventional and Islamic finance facilities and has extensive experience in negotiating with commercial bank lenders, export credit agencies and international financial institutions.
- **National and International Public Tenders.** Based on their substantial experience of working for public entities as well as project sponsors/bidders, Gide's lawyers assist their clients in developing and implementing a bidding strategy to maximize success by clearly assessing project risks.
- **Legal and Regulatory Reforms.** Gide has developed a recognised track record in reviewing and/or drafting "best-practice" multi-sector and sector-specific laws and regulations.
- **Contract Performance/Dispute Resolution and Prevention.** Gide is committed to ensuring that its clients' deals are a success. Gide offers assistance throughout the project lifecycle, and regularly advises on preventing or managing disputes.

*« Impressive French firm which is particularly well regarded for its francophone capabilities. Regularly assists clients with energy, mining, infrastructure and water projects, with extensive experience advising sovereign entities. The Paris head office is heavily involved in Africa work, and the firm also has regional offices in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. Sources recognise its regional knowledge: 'It's a very strong firm in francophone Africa.' Interviewees add: 'They are serious lawyers with that cultural edge; they've been in the market a long time.' »*

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