

AFRICA | THE NEW FRONTIER

Gide is a leading international law firm. Founded in Paris in 1920, the firm now operates from 12 offices worldwide. It has over 550 lawyers drawn from 35 different nationalities. In each of its offices in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North America, Gide puts its comprehensive knowledge of local markets, its regional expertise and the resources of an international law firm to the service of its clients.

Africa is the New Frontier of the world, not only in terms of natural resources, but also in terms of infrastructure, telecommunications, urbanisation, and financial and consumer markets. With an average 5% annual growth since 2000, and home to seven out of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies, this continent has become a land of investment where high-level legal assistance is crucial to success. Africa is at the heart of our strategy.

Widely regarded as a key player throughout the African continent, Gide has advised a broad, blue-chip client base on a range of complex and challenging transactions for over 40 years. In particular, we are a trusted advisor to governments, international institutions and foreign investors on matters including privatisations, mergers and acquisitions, legal and regulatory reforms, granting of concessions/licences, implementation of public-private partnerships (PPPs), financing of infrastructure projects and international dispute resolution.

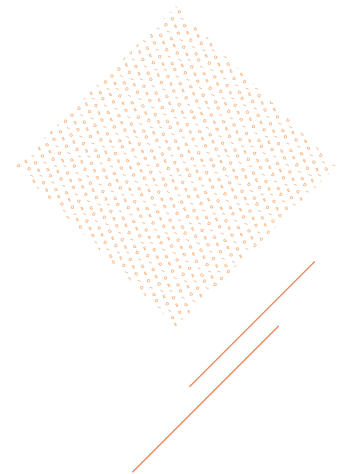
Over the last 15 years, our activity in Africa has increased significantly and our impressive and extensive portfolio of high-profile clients now features private European, American, Asian and, more recently, leading African groups. Our industry experience is equally wide-ranging, including (among others) oil & gas, mining, natural resources, telecommunications and ICT, water & energy, construction, industry and manufacturing, transport, pharmaceuticals, banking, and insurance.

Widely regarded practice group with particular proficiency operating in francophone regions and in OHADA law. Represents a number of international conglomerates and equity firms on their acquisitions and divestments on the continent. Active in sectors including manufacturing, energy, oil and gas and hospitality with experience advising government entities. The practice is run from offices in locations including Paris, London, Algiers, Casablanca and Tunis. »

Chambers Global 2018

Extensive Geographical Reach coupled with Local Knowledge

Our experience and expertise extend across the entire continent not only in French-speaking Western and Central Africa but also in Southern and Eastern Africa and in Portuguese-speaking countries. Our lawyers possess extensive and detailed knowledge of African both national and regional legal systems and regimes, enabling them to advise notably on the policies and objectives of regional communities and laws such as those of the **ECOWAS** (Economic Community of West African States), **CEMAC** (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa), **UEMOA** (West African Economic and Monetary Union), **SADC** (Southern African Development Community) and **OHADA** (Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa). Our lawyers can practise civil as well as common law.



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BRUSSELS
CAIRO
CASABLANCA
ISTANBUL
LONDON
NEW YORK
PARIS
SHANGHAI
TUNIS
WARSAW

A Multidisciplinary and Cross-border Team

Our 50-lawyer Africa team is composed of members from various African countries, operates from offices in Europe (mainly London and Paris), four offices in Africa (Algiers, Cairo, Casablanca and Tunis) and liaises with our offices in China (Beijing and Shanghai), and Turkey (Istanbul) to develop its growing practice in Africa. The Africa team is supported by an extensive and well-established local network of contacts and leading law firms throughout the continent that have been carefully selected, not only for their legal expertise, but also for their relationships with government departments and agencies. Our international network is a sizeable and talented team spread across the globe that allows us to act for our clients effectively and efficiently both in Africa and in their cross-border transactions. This ensures we can provide clients with in-depth knowledge of local commercial, cultural and legal customs, combined with the resources and expertise of a major international law firm.

A Truly Specialised Legal Team with Strong Sector Expertise

Thanks to our long-standing experience and valued expertise in Africa, our team offers a high-level of assistance tailored for each specific industry, country and legal area throughout the continent.

Projects, Energy & Natural Resources

Our team has acquired worldwide and specific expertise, knowledge and experience in investment projects in Africa, and more particularly in infrastructure private sector participation. Main areas of international public and private infrastructure advised on include energy, natural resources, transport, water supply, plant construction, sanitation & irrigation, and communications. Our lawyers represent sponsors, lenders and governments in pioneering BOT, concession projects and privatisations in many African countries. On a number of occasions and in several countries, we have been involved in successfully closing the first project of its type in a given sector in that country. We have additionally been selected to harmonise African hydrocarbons legislation and have helped to set up the legal framework for PPPs in several African jurisdictions.

Telecommunications / ICT

Over the last sixteen years, our team has played a key role in developing telecommunications in Africa and has gained renowned expertise. Our lawyers regularly advise governments, regulatory authorities and operators on the implementation of new legal and regulatory regimes enabling the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector in compliance with international best practices. In particular, our experience covers: privatisations and acquisitions, drafting the legal and regulatory framework for the telecommunications and ICT sectors, granting licences and concessions for 2G/3G mobile and fixed lines, implementing PPPs for telecommunication infrastructures such as backbones, settlement of disputes, electronic transactions and digital content. We have recently advised, for example, France Télécom, Bintel, Maroc Telecom, Tunisie Telecom, MTN, Vimpelcom, Zain, Qtel, CWC, the governments of Malawi, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Guinea, Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire.

Gide Loyrette Nouel has 'a good reputation for Francophone Africa', is 'value for money' and 'offers international standards in West Africa'. The firm is noted for projects, finance, M&A and arbitration, with its team principally located in Paris, London and Casablanca. Much of the practice is connected to infrastructure projects. The firm advised a consortium consisting of Veolia, Meridiam and FGIS on the development of a 60MW hydroelectric power plant at Kinguéle Aval on the Mbei River in Gabon. Christophe Eck and Julien David are prominent in African M&A, as is 'good negotiator' Jean-Gabriel Flandrois, who has 'a deep understanding of the local constraints'. Infrastructure specialist Stéphane Vernay, disputes expert Michel Pitron, as well as finance lawyers John Crothers and Arnaud Duhamel are recommended. »

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Mergers & Acquisitions / Corporate

Our team has a long history of working on landmark, high-value M&A transactions and other corporate matters in a wide variety of sectors in Africa. Our expertise covers corporate law, general and listed M&A, joint ventures, privatisations and cross-border operations. We have assisted a broad spectrum of clients, including public and private companies, governmental bodies, financial sponsors, investment banks and individuals in their successful completion of M&A transactions of all kinds throughout Africa.

We also have excellent knowledge of domestic and international tax laws applicable to investments and to foreign businesses expanding into various countries in Africa. Our team has handled some landmark operations, such as the acquisition of Congo China Telecom by France Télécom Orange in the DRC, the first privatisation of a bank in Libya (Sahara Bank), the acquisition of a 35% stake in Bank of Africa by BMCE, Morocco's second-biggest private-sector bank, and the merger between Ashanti Goldfields and AngloGold (advice to the government of Ghana).

International Dispute Resolution

Our team has developed significant expertise in assisting clients in the resolution of their disputes involving Africa, particularly regarding infrastructure projects, energy and natural resources, telecommunications and other industrial joint ventures. Our experience, gained on a worldwide level, extends to all the main areas of international public and private infrastructure, including energy, natural resources, transport, water supply, plant construction, sanitation & irrigation, and communications. Our lawyers have represented States, State-owned entities or private investors in disputes related to many African countries.

Banking & Finance

Our team enjoys an international reputation in all aspects of banking, finance and capital markets. Our lawyers' expertise includes project, trade, asset, real estate, acquisition and structured finance. We have also played a leading role in developing markets for African capital market products.

Our lawyers have advised governments, government-related entities, international financial institutions (such as the IFC or the African Development Bank), international and regional banks (such as Attijariwafa bank, BNP Paribas, Industrial & Commercial Bank of China), investment funds (such as the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund) and private investors.

In the past 12 months, Gide picked up significant work on joint venture cases in a number of sectors including the oil and gas industries. The firm also advised a number of companies regarding their investments in Algeria. »

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Respected francophone player in Africa, operating from offices in Algiers, Tunis, Casablanca and across Europe. Highly thought of for its work in the banking, oil and gas and mining sectors, with a significant client base including international financial investors and sovereign entities. Highly experienced advising on restructurings, project financings and financings ancillary to M&A deals. »

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World Finance 2014

Morocco: Wessal Capital investment projects in Casablanca and Rabat named 'Sovereign Wealth Fund Deal of the Year' and 'Social Deal of the Year'

I.F.L.R. Middle East & North Africa Awards 2013

National Firm of the Year for Algeria

FT Innovative Lawyers Report 2012

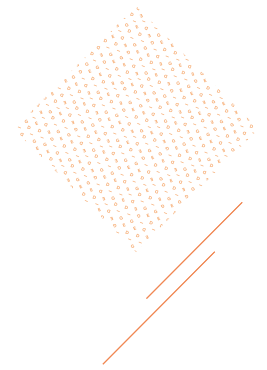
Senegal: Blaise Diagne International Airport praised as 'Standout' deal in Corporate Law

Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca delivers 'very good service in a timely fashion'. It has 'in-depth knowledge of the Moroccan oil and gas sector' and 'a strong multi-disciplinary team of specialist partners' such as Wacef Bentaibi. »

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The 'very good' team at Global Lawyers North Africa in partnership with Gide Loyrette Nouel attracts praise for its 'problem-solving approach'. »

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North Africa