



Invest in Côte d'Ivoire



MANAGING DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Since its independence in 1960, liberalism and openness policy are the pillar of the Côte d'Ivoire's economy. This strategy has allowed it to experience a significant economic development.

The unfortunate socio-politic crisis the country has undergone since 1999 has interrupted the momentum; slowed down the economic growth and downgraded the social complexes.

The high economic and human potentials have; however, stayed untouched. In addition, the current administration's will power to restore the economic vitality has increased opportunities for all potential investors.

The government with the support of its development partners engaged in an ambitious economic growth program spanning from 2012 to 2015. The program aims to restore a consistent and dynamic growth of 10% by 2015, based in part on the increase of investment.

Amongst the reforms and actions needed to reach these objectives stand:

- the increase of private investments to 11% of the GDP
- the creation of a competitive and attractive business making environment

The Center for the Promotion of Investments in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI) assist you in materializing your investment opportunities.

More than 1000 foreign firms established in Côte d'Ivoire are a testament to the warmly and legendary welcome from Côte d'Ivoire.

ESSIS ESMEL Emmanuel
Managing Director

➤ CHOOSING CÔTE D'IVOIRE FOR YOUR INVESTMENT

In 2012

- Population: **23 millions**
- Growth rate: **9,8%**
- Inflation rate: **1,3%**

POSITIONNING

Côte d'Ivoire's privileged positioning makes it a strategic investment destination.

Indeed, Côte d'Ivoire is an open door to the West African market, especially to ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), which gathers 15 states and more than 300 millions inhabitants. Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, which represents a market of more than 80 millions inhabitants. The 8 countries members share the same currency and a number of economic regulations.

IMPORTANT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Côte-d'Ivoire provides great of industrial, commercial and agricultural opportunities.

In the agriculture sector, Côte d'Ivoire is **the world's leading producer of Cocoa bean** with 1.400.000 tones produced per year; **the 6th producer of coffee bean** with 94 000 tones produced per year, and the **2nd producer of cashew nuts** with 450 000 tones produced in 2012.

Côte d'Ivoire is also the 1st exporter of palm oil with 384 000 tones exported, **the 1st tuna boat port in Africa and the 1st African producer of rubber** with 231 000 tones produced per year.

Côte d'Ivoire's soil is rich in mineral content, and exploitation is only at its beginnings. Among others, it contains gold, copper, diamond, iron and uranium.

TOP-NOTCH QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURES

Côte d'Ivoire has 3 main airports in Yamoussoukro, Bouake and Abidjan, hosting more than 20 aerial companies. It also has 2 ports available in Abidjan and San Pedro, true maritime transportation hubs. They supply the sub-region with a cumulated traffic of 25.5 million tones.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire possesses a developed road network system.

The Ivorian state has put into place important investments for the building of the road, highway and railway networks.

The banking and financial system in Côte d'Ivoire is effective and based on a significant network of international banks. Furthermore, Côte d'Ivoire hosts the headquarter of the regional transferable stock exchange.

Côte d'Ivoire is also developed in terms of telecommunication with a strong and reliable 3rd generation network counting 7 mobile telephony operators.



➤ CEPICI OVERVIEW

The Center for the Promotion of Investments in Côte d'Ivoire CEPICI is the one-stop service desk for investments in Côte d'Ivoire. It federates, coordinates and rationalizes the initiatives and government actions in terms of investment promotion and private sector development.

It is under the administrative authority and supervision of the Head of State's office

Our Values:

- Professionalism
- Efficiency
- Confidentiality



MISSION

The CEPICI plays a key role in guiding the private sector and facilitating the interaction between the private and public sectors.

The CEPICI is in charge of:

1. through its' investment one-stop customer service

- facilitating the administrative procedures related to the creation, operation, hand-over or the expansion of a firm. All the administrative institutions and organizations related to these procedures are gathered within the CEPICI;
- contributing to the decrease of expenses and time related to these procedures;
- receiving and instructing investors of the advantages and benefits of the Code of Investment.
- receiving and instructing investors of the procedures linked with the acquisition of an industrial land.

2. instructing, delivering and withdraw investment agreements,

3. assuring the promotion of national and foreign investments to Côte d'Ivoire through:

- the promotion of a public-private partnership to local and foreign investors;
- the identification of investors and partnership development;



- bringing together foreign investors, SMB and promoters to galvanize their business sectors;
- carry out the implementation of the Investment Code in relation with administrations, public and private organisms.

4. contribute to all actions related to the enhancement of the business context; and formulate propositions to the government,

5. contribute to the development of the Ivorian private sector as a carry-out agent of governmental and development partners programs,

6. be a meeting and dialogue platform between the public and the private sectors in order to formulate proposals to the government for the improvement of the business environment for the private sector.

A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Côte d'Ivoire disposes of renowned schools. ENSEA: The headquarter of Statistics Schools in Sub-Saharan Africa. The INP-HB is a hub of excellence in terms of higher education in business and technology.

Companies which need skilled employees can rely on local expertise and high skills.

In terms of executives training, the government has carried out the building and restoration of the various universities and higher education institutions.

THE LOCAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

In terms of national security, Côte d'Ivoire has recovered its political stability. National reconciliation is steadily in motion, following the 2010 political crisis.

According to the African Development Bank, the security index has improved from 4 to 1.

In terms of business, regulations are thoroughly monitored and improved thanks to the court of commerce, the fight against corruption, and to the reforms in business environment improvement.



The CEPICI reflects the investment bold vision of the Ivorian Government, particularly through incentive measures, such as:

- the business creation help-desk,
- the Investment Code help-desk,
- the industrial land allocation help-desk,
- the administrative procedure help-desk.

The new Investments Code eases access to the Ivorian market through the following processes:

- Tax exemption on industrial and commercial profits or non commercial profits;
- License tax exemption ;
- Real estate exemption ;
- Discount of 40 to 50% on custom duty on hardware and the first bath of spare-part
- Exemption from VAT on custom duty on hardware and the first bath of spare-part.

Investor can benefit from tax exemptions as soon as his or her company goes into its operating phase during :

- 5 years in Abidjan and its region ,
- 8 to 15 years on other parts of the country, depending on the population density.



Côte d'Ivoire maintains its position as a country:

- With strong potentials and investment opportunities,
- important quality socio-economic infrastructure
- A business environment on constant improvement.