



annual report

2019 mid 2020



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



africa trade fund
unlocking africa's trade potential

Africa Trade Fund in brief



AfTra four pillars

pillar i. **facilitating trade**

making customs, ports, one-stop border posts more open and accessible and easing movement across trade corridors

pillar ii. **developing products and markets**

getting goods up to SPS standard, stamping quality on products and crossing over to new markets

pillar iii. **building capacity for institutions**

collecting market data, analyzing trade gaps, adding value along the chain and supporting negotiations

pillar iv. **growing the Bank's knowledge to deliver**

creating stronger trade statistics and research in the Bank and providing quality advisory services

AfTra beneficiaries

Regional Economic Communities, regional institutions and agencies concerned with trade development

Regional Member Countries of the Bank, political subdivisions or agencies (including bodies of the central or local Government) that are concerned with trade development

private sector organizations such as industry associations, business organizations, growers' associations, Chambers of Commerce

non-governmental organizations at country or regional level

civil society and community-based organizations with a track record in trade development, environmental protection and gender advocacy

confidence



Akinwumi A. Adesina
President,
African Development Bank Group

The Africa of the 21st century is **a very different Africa**. The Africa of the 21st century is a new and more confident Africa... Africa doesn't just want to trade. Africa wants to also industrialize. Africa no longer wants to export raw materials but value-added products.”¹

resilience

“...Africa must future-proof its resilience by accelerating efforts in key areas from digitization to industrialization...it is by unlocking the continent’s potential and ability to trade – as seen in the Africa Trade Fund – that we will arrive at a competitive African economy that is both regionally and globally integrated.”



Abdu Mukhtar
Director for Industrial and
Trade Development,
African Development Bank

foreword

The publication of this 2019-mid 2020 Africa Trade Fund report is set against a radically changed global context; the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated countless lives and continues to threaten more livelihoods in Africa and around the world. The blows to the continent's economic stability have been brutal, as trade and financial flows fall amidst measures to curtail the pandemic, risking many development gains of recent years.

There is a prevailing global urgency to mitigate the systemic shocks generated by the crisis. Through its USD 10 billion COVID Response Facility, the African Development Bank has acted swiftly to shore up the ability of governments and the private sector to manage the crisis. At the same time there is momentum to spur on Africa's economic recovery by capitalizing on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with its prospect of higher growth and more jobs.

In today's climate, operations that unlock Africa's trade potential and support producers and traders are more critical than ever. That matters even more for low-income countries. I am proud to report that in 2019 and 2020 the Africa Trade Fund (AfTra) saw a fresh growth in approvals for operations totalling CAD 3.2 million. Projects started up to facilitate trade for MSMEs across the Ethiopia-Djibouti corridor and to add greater value across honey and meat supply chains in Guinea and Rwanda. At the same time, by mid 2020, two thirds of the Fund's portfolio successfully reached completion stage and are now focused on sustaining impact.

Among the report highlights, a completed project showcases how more women cross-border traders in the Mano River Union now have the facilities and skills to do business across five border areas. In addition, a Funded project supported the creation of over 1,500 jobs in the cashew industry in East and West Africa, matched by activities promoting value addition. Cross-border transaction times were also reduced with the set up of three border information centres (BICs) at three border posts in West Africa (Niangoloko, Burkina Faso/Côte d'Ivoire; Kidira and Diboli, Mali/Senegal).

Against challenging conditions of having to adapt to remote working and business operations, I would like to commend the Africa Trade Fund Secretariat for their flexibility and commitment to driving the delivery of the portfolio. Particular thanks go to Andoh Mensah for his guidance, and special recognition is due to Jean-Guy Afrika for overall management of the Fund. Warm appreciation goes to Maria Leonor Sales and to Marie Anitha Jaotody for technical review, and to all the Fund Secretariat. Acknowledgement goes to Bank consultants, Elena Immambocus, for developing and writing this report, and to Peggy King Cointepas for the graphics and design.

In the coming period, Africa, and the rest of the world, must adapt to the multi-faceted economic and social challenges resulting from the pandemic. To do so, Africa must future-proof its resilience by accelerating efforts in key areas from digitization to industrialization. Ultimately, it is by unlocking the continent's potential and ability to trade - as fostered by the Africa Trade Fund - that we will propel a competitive African economy that is both regionally and globally integrated.



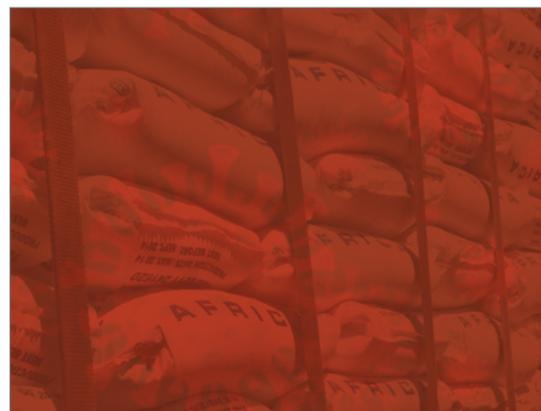
Abdu Mukhtar
Director for Industrial and Trade Development
African Development Bank Group

glossary

ACA	African Cashew Alliance
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank Group
AfTra	Africa Trade Fund
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunities Act
AU(C)	African Union (Commission)
CAD	Canadian Dollar
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COPRAKAM	Beekeeper cooperative (Guinea)
COVID-19	Infectious disease caused by coronavirus
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
IT	Information Technology
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprise
NES	National Export Strategy
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSBP	One-stop Border Post
PATSIL	Program of Assistance to Trade Support Institutions in Liberia
REC	Regional Economic Community
RMC	Regional Member Country (of AfDB)
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SERUKA	NGO for women's socio-economic empowerment (Rwanda)
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary
USD	United States Dollar
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Director for Industrial and Trade Development, African Development Bank	



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response

COVID-19: the impact on trade in Africa

HEADLINE FIGURES

Real GDP in Africa is projected to contract by between 1.7% to 3.4% in 2020.²

African economies will enter a recession, losing up to USD 212 billion dollars in 2020.³

3 out of 4 small businesses in Africa believe their companies will be severely hit.⁴

The jobs or incomes of 150 million Africans – 1/3 of the workforce – could be under threat.⁵

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has brought unprecedented loss to lives and livelihoods on a global scale, shaking the foundations of economic growth and sustainable development, including on the African continent. The decline in commodity prices is amplifying the challenge in many economies. The outlook in Africa and beyond is being characterized by sustained disruption from shocks to production across supply chains, to barriers to doing business across borders, and added pressures on agricultural production and food systems. As a result, the movement of goods, services and people are being severely constrained, with the small businesses and informal sector that hold up Africa's economy increasingly at risk.

The fallout from the crisis highlights how interconnected economies are worldwide. To facilitate the trade and growth needed for recovery, even closer cooperation is needed among governments, the private sector and development partners in Africa as well as globally.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S RESPONSE FOR RECOVERY

African countries are working to adapt to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and have been looking to the Bank for an effective, multilateral response to the crisis. The Bank's operations have continued to run smoothly with internal processes digitized and business processes streamlined. In addition to its lending program and initiatives, such as the Africa Trade Fund, a facility was launched that builds on the Bank's experiences from the Ebola epidemic.

“ At the African Development Bank, our plan is to help African countries find smart approaches... that bring key industries back into operation and help people and goods move while ensuring safe ways of working.”

AfDB statement at the 49th Committee on Trade and Development, WTO, 7 July 2020

Through its USD 10 billion COVID Response Facility,⁶ the Bank is leading the way to help African countries alleviate the shocks of COVID-19 in order to reopen economies and reinvigorate trade and regional integration in a balanced and calibrated way. The new Facility provides:

- USD 5.5 billion for sovereign operations in AfDB countries
- USD 3.1 billion for sovereign and regional operations for countries under the African Development Fund, the Bank Group's concessional arm that caters to fragile countries
- USD 1.35 billion for private sector operations.

AFRICA TRADE FUND: CONTINUING TO UNLOCK AFRICA'S TRADE POTENTIAL

The Africa Trade Fund's vision of a competitive African economy that is regionally and globally integrated is essential to making sure that the continent can withstand the fall-out from the global pandemic in the period ahead. The Fund's ongoing support to a wide range of African countries and communities to unlock their trade potential remains vital against the backdrop of the economic downturn. Operations underway already support 16 low-income countries, many of which are most affected by the economic impact of the crisis.

AFRICA'S MSMEs, CROSS-BORDER TRADERS AND WOMEN WORKERS

- Under pressure to survive and thrive, MSMEs are receiving assistance from nearly two-thirds of the Fund's operations on the ground.
- Informal cross-border traders, who are among the most vulnerable groups, are being supported under a fifth of the Fund's portfolio.
- Increasingly under pressure from the crisis, women workers are being empowered to do business in over a third of the Fund's projects.

action

Africa Trade Fund in action: 2019-mid 2020



The Africa Trade Fund resources were close to being fully committed as of 30 June 2020, with 98% of funds allocated out of the CAD 15 million contributed by the Government of Canada.

During the period 2019-mid 2020, the Africa Trade Fund experienced a significant growth in its portfolio, with CAD 3.2 million of new projects approved, corresponding to 11% of Fund operations. As of mid 2020, over three-quarters of active projects are reported as performing well, considering the new approvals that have come on board in the last two years.

CAD 3.2 million
new projects approved, 2019-mid 2020

Monitoring and evaluation remained central to the Fund's project management approach given the far-reaching scope of its projects operating in 27 countries and led by 25 national, regional and Africa-wide institutions across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

Between 2019 and 2020, Fund operations continued to run effectively, underpinned by a strong reporting system. Quarterly performance dashboards and management reviews of projects have highlighted the way forward on accelerating both delivery and disbursements.

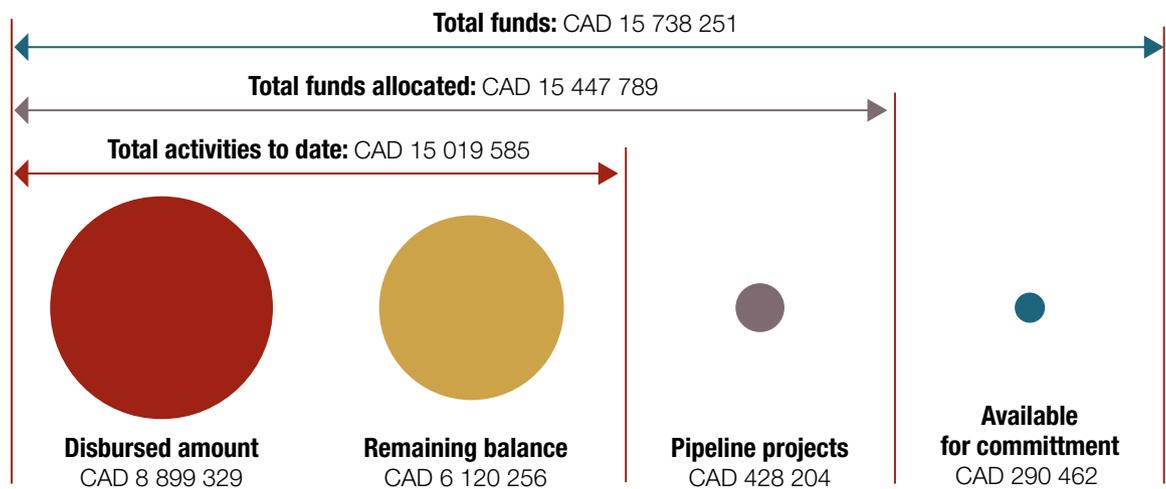
Progress was made on accelerating disbursements across the board in 2019-2020, with a 64% average disbursement rate for ongoing projects, sustaining the performance of recent years. At the same time, as of July 2020, two-thirds of the Facility's portfolio had been finalized, with an additional four projects successfully completed during the last reporting period.



AfTra added value checklist

- i. impact-centered and results-focused:**
focuses on low-income countries where need is greatest and monitors and evaluates for trade outcomes promoting development impact
- ii. African partnership - local, regional and global:**
wide-reaching engagement and support to local communities, civil society, businesses, governments and regional bodies
- iii. targeted and transformative in delivery:**
responds to priority demands, builds internal/ external expertise and skills and leverages funding to make efforts sustainable

Africa Trade Fund operations, 2013-30 June 2020, CAD



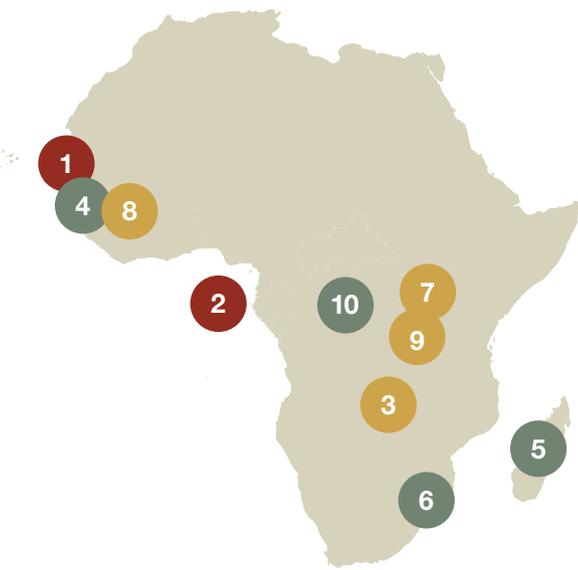
Africa Trade Fund portfolio 2019-2020

- * Completed projects
- Ongoing projects

- **pillar i.** facilitating trade
- **pillar ii.** developing products and markets
- **pillar iii.** building capacity for institutions
- **pillar iv.** growing the bank's knowledge to deliver

Africa-wide projects

- * Harmonization of African Standards for Agriculture and Food Products
- * AGOA support to AU mission
- * Intra-Africa Investment Report
- * Africa Regional Integration Index (includes Visa Openness Index)
- * Africa e-Trade Hub Project



projects in specific countries

- * 1 **Senegal** Customs Facilitation Project
- * 2 Trade Facilitation Project in **São Tomé and Príncipe**
- * 3 **Zambia** Honey Value Chain Development Project
- * 4 Project to Improve Balance of Payment Statistics in **Guinea**
- * 5 **Madagascar** National Export Strategy
- * 6 **Eswatini** Aid for Trade Strategy
- * 7 **Rwanda** Honey Value Chain Development Project
- * 8 **Guinea** Honey Value Chain Trade Competitiveness Project
- * 9 **Rwanda** Meat Value Chain Trade Competitiveness Project
- * 10 Development of **DRC's** National Export Strategy

regional projects

- * Support for African Cashew Industries in West and East Africa
- * East Africa Regional Trade Facilitation Project (Ethiopia-Djibouti corridor)



AfTra in EAC member countries
Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania (Secretariat), Uganda

- * Namanga One-Stop Border Post's Soft Infrastructure Project
- * EAC Aid for Trade Strategy



AfTra in SADC member countries
Angola, Botswana (Secretariat), Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- * SADC Border Management Project



AfTra in ECOWAS member countries
Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria (Secretariat), Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo

- * West Africa Border Information Centres Project



AfTra in Mano River Union countries
Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia (Secretariat), Sierra Leone

- * Women Cross-border Traders Project in the Mano River Union



AfTra in COMESA member countries
Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia (Secretariat), Zimbabwe

- * COMESA Trading for Peace Project



AfTra in WAEMU member countries
Benin, Burkina Faso (Secretariat), Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

- * Project to Support Trade and Transport Facilitation in WAEMU countries

AfTra in numbers

Funds and performance ■ CAD **15** million in funding for AfTra from Canada ■ Close to CAD **5** million leveraged in partnerships by the Fund ■ **98%** of AfTra resources committed as of July 2020 ■ **78%** of projects reported as performing well as of July 2020 ■ **64%** average project disbursement rate between 2019-mid 2020 ■ **Projects and operations** ■ **15** AfDB professionals across **8** Departments manage AfTra projects ■ **18** out of **27** projects completed as of July 2020 ■ **3** new projects totalling CAD **3.2** million approved between 2019-mid 2020 ■ Out of **27** projects: **8** are in pillar i.; **7** are in pillar ii.; **8** are in pillar iii.; **4** are in pillar iv. ■ Out of **27** projects: **7** are Africa-wide; **2** are in Central Africa; **6** are in East Africa; **5** are in Southern Africa; **7** are in West Africa ■ Operations are in **27** countries, including targeted assistance to **10** countries ■ Fund activities are supporting **16** low-income economies on the continent ■ Projects are led by **25** institutions: **7** Africa-wide institutions; **5** regional bodies; **8** government agencies; **3** not-for-profit organizations; **2** private sector alliances ■ **63%** of projects actively support MSMEs ■ Over **1/3** of projects focus on empowering women, including **50%** of country-specific projects, and **6** out of **7** projects on developing products and markets ■





results

Africa Trade Fund results: 2019-mid 2020

Across the Africa Trade Fund's portfolio, 18 projects were completed by mid 2020 under each of the four pillars. An additional eight projects are ongoing, which includes three new projects that were approved by the Technical Review Committee and Board during 2019 and 2020.

18
projects
under 4 pillars
completed by
mid 2020

From 2019 to mid 2020, the Africa Trade Fund's projects made significant progress in realizing their goals, contributing to unlocking

the continent's trade potential. Project highlights over this period are captured in sections covering each pillar and its completed or ongoing projects; a series of results stories present an in-depth look at select Fund projects.

The Fund's active portfolio spans projects in East and West Africa as well as Africa-wide; half are due to be completed in 2020 and 2021, and the remainder in 2022. Six out of eight ongoing projects support pillar i. on facilitating trade and pillar ii. on developing products and markets. This is in addition to two projects under pillar iii. on building capacity for institutions.



AfTra guiding principles

selectivity: areas where the Bank demonstrates comparative advantage and value addition

country ownership: aligned to RECs and RMCs' trade strategies and development plans

results-focused: strive for tangible results, focus on M&E and timely technical support

private sector development: develop and promote business as an engine of growth

gender focus: mainstream removal of barriers for women in trade and measure change

environmental sustainability: address trade and environment issues including biodiversity

complementarity and partnerships: leverage resources and build knowledge exchange

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fund's projects have had to innovate. That has involved making use of online and virtual tools to engage stakeholder networks, as well as to monitor and evaluate activities, and reaching out to local agents where travel restrictions remain. In 2020 and beyond, the Fund will continue to adapt to drive delivery on the ground.

AFTRA'S COMPLETED PROJECTS

■ pillar i. facilitating trade

- Namanga One-Stop Border Post project
- Senegal customs facilitation project
- Trade facilitation project in São Tomé and Príncipe
- Women cross-border traders project in the Mano River Union
- West Africa Border Information Centres project

■ pillar ii. developing products and markets

- Harmonization of African standards
- Zambia honey value chain project
- Support for cashew industries project

■ pillar iii. building capacity for institutions

- AGOA support to AU mission
- COMESA Trading for Peace project
- EAC Aid for Trade Strategy
- Eswatini Aid for Trade Strategy
- Madagascar National Export Strategy
- Guinea balance of payments project
- SADC border management project

■ pillar iv. growing the Bank's knowledge to deliver

- Intra-Africa Investment Report
- Africa Regional Integration Index (includes Visa Openness Index)
- Strategy and knowledge consultant

Africa Trade Fund film
**Facilitating Africa's Trade:
border voices**



Facilitating Africa's Trade: border voices is a short film by the AfDB on why trade facilitation matters for Africa. Through the voices of a woman cross-border trader, customs official, truck driver, traders' association, community councillor and a trade information desk, we hear about the realities on the ground, the challenges faced and the opportunities to facilitate trade that will impact on livelihoods and the growth prospects for the continent.

The film showcases the trading situation at Kasumbalesa (Zambia/DRC) and Kazungula border (Zambia/Botswana). The AfDB, through the Africa Trade Fund (AfTra) has provided support to small-scale cross border traders through COMESA's Trading for Peace Project.

Watch the film on:
www.africatradefund.org

Africa Trade Fund project approvals

pillar i. facilitating trade

East Africa Trade Facilitation Project

project overview	
title	Regional trade facilitation project
location	East Africa (Ethiopia-Djibouti corridor)
amount	CAD 905 295
beneficiaries	MSMEs and trade support institutions
executing agency	Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry
time-frame	March 2019 – October 2022

AfTra support is boosting the capacity of MSMEs and trade support institutions operating along the Ethiopia-Djibouti corridor. By building the capacity of institutions and the private sector, the assistance aims to facilitate trade flows and promote greater intra-regional trade.

Activities moved ahead in 2019-20 with an inception report developed under the project. The project will focus on top traded products as a priority and outline the actions needed to unlock their trade potential, supported by progress already made in regional infrastructure. Operations are continuing in spite of limitations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the use of online communication channels to carry out stakeholder engagement sessions.

pillar ii. developing products and markets

Rwanda Meat value chain Trade Competitiveness Project

project overview	
title	Rwanda Meat value chain Trade Competitiveness Project
location	Rwanda
amount	CAD 1 459 727
beneficiaries	women and young cross-border traders
executing agency	Ministry of Trade and Industry
time-frame	June 2020 - September 2022

AfTra support is increasing the competitiveness of the meat value chain in Rwanda and promoting market access opportunities. Women and young cross-border traders will benefit from the assistance, which will have an impact on strengthening livelihoods and incomes.

The project, which started in mid 2020, will target over 650 producers, processors and traders nationwide, 74% of them women in informal cross-

border trade. Through a “training of trainers” approach, close to 2,000 actors along the value chain will be reached. Activities will equip supply chain operators with the tools to improve food safety across

production, quality, marketing and traceability, all the more critical in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

project target:
650
producers,
processors and
traders nationwide

Support project for the Competitiveness of the Honey value chain in Guinea

project overview	
title	Support Project for the Competitiveness of the Honey value chain in Guinea
location	Guinea
amount	CAD 846 889
beneficiaries	beekeeper cooperative members
executing agency	COPRAKAM Guinea
time-frame	June 2019 – March 2022

AfTra support is developing the honey value chain sector in three cities of the country, covering Dabola, Kouroussa and Faranah. Beekeeper cooperative members will receive assistance to increase their exports and to use environmentally-friendly technologies.

project target:
30%
rise in income
of value chain actors

In 2019-2020 project operations got underway, which are going to develop well-structured cooperatives, improve honey production and quality, and support the preservation of the local environment. Around 2,250 beekeepers will receive capacity building on honey and business practices, with guides to be developed on good hygiene and on exports. In turn, the project is aiming for a 30% rise in the incomes of value chain actors.



pillar i. facilitating trade:

making customs, ports, one-stop border posts more open and accessible and easing movement across trade corridors

In 2019-mid 2020, Africa Trade Fund projects under pillar i. made progress across West Africa and beyond in modernizing trade systems for cross-border trade stakeholders. Over the period, a project to support women cross-border traders in the Mano River Union was completed with five information desks and new facilities in operation to boost traders' activities. Across West Africa, a border information centres project was finalized to set up three centres that successfully reduced trading times. Ongoing projects moved ahead to map out a modernized system to facilitate transport and trade in WAEMU, and to set up an online trade hub for countries Africa-wide.

Mano River Union: empowering women cross-border traders

project overview	
title	Support to women cross-border traders in the Mano River Union
location	Mano River Union (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone)
amount	CAD 525 799
beneficiaries	women and young cross-border traders, and border agencies
executing agency	Mano River Union Secretariat
time-frame	July 2015 - May 2020

AfTra's project to support women cross-border traders in the Mano River Union was completed in 2020. Under the project, a series of workshops built up traders' business, finance and marketing skills, and developed their know-how on navigating border procedures with confidence. Training sessions held with joint border units and local authorities generated open discussions and higher levels of trust among cross-border traders and officials.

250
women traders
benefitted from
the support

In total, with community outreach, 250 women traders were equipped to carry out their cross-border trade activities more securely. As a result of newly installed facilities at border areas, women can count on improved trading conditions in the region.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019-2020

In 2019-2020, five Women Information Desks were fully installed in the border areas of Jendema (Sierra Leone), Ganta and Toes Town (Liberia), Diecke (Guinea) and Toulepleu (Côte d'Ivoire). The sites include refurbished 20 ft containers, with office space and IT equipment, alongside 10 new sanitation facilities.

To support the upgrade of infrastructure at the border, solar panels have been installed for security lighting, and water wells with pumps have been constructed. Due to travel restrictions under COVID-19, local agents have assisted in finalizing operations. Handover of the sites is planned once travel restrictions are lifted, to be accompanied by an awareness-raising campaign on the use of the new facilities.

WAEMU: connecting systems, promoting border trade and transit

project overview	
title	Project to support trade and transport facilitation in WAEMU
location	WAEMU
amount	CAD 709 703
beneficiaries	WAEMU countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo); transport operators and traders; border agencies
executing agency	WAEMU Commission
time-frame	May 2016 - June 2021

AfTra support will cut trade costs and time across WAEMU corridors by updating the region's transit and border management system. To promote the movement of transport and trade flows, the project will produce studies on how to deliver interconnected IT customs systems, a regional transit system and a Regional Single Window.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019-2020

In 2019-2020, a roadmap was adopted to develop the components to finalize a feasibility study for a modernized system to facilitate transport and trade. National workshops are planned in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal that will validate study findings, followed by sessions to look at the technical, financial and institutional aspects of reforming the system. In addition, a Ministerial meeting and stakeholder outreach seminar will share information on planned reforms. The project is due to be completed by mid 2021.

Africa e-Trade Hub: cutting time and costs for trade and transport

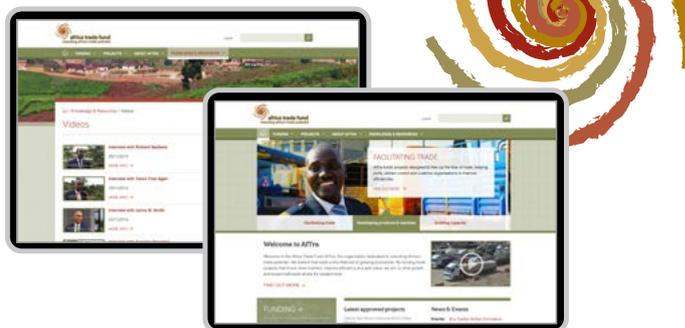
project overview	
title	Africa e-Trade Hub Project
location	Africa-wide
amount	CAD 531 859
beneficiaries	RECs, African countries, traders and transport operators
executing agency	African Alliance for e-Commerce
time-frame	November 2015 – December 2020

AfTra support is creating a centralized platform to assist government agencies and Regional Economic Communities to streamline trade logistics and cut time and costs for trade and transport transactions. The African Trade Documents Exchange Hub will support document sharing, boosting transparency, which, in turn, will help improve traders' competitiveness.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019-2020

In 2019-2020, the project continued to advance on IT operations and the acquisition of shared equipment to set up a trade portal that will centralize information on import, export and transit procedures. Activities also moved ahead under the electronic documents exchange platform on trade. The project is due to be completed by the end of 2020.

Find out more at:
www.africatrdefund.org





RESULTS CASE STORY

West Africa Border Information Centres in facilitating trade

project overview

title	West Africa Border Information Centres
location	West Africa
amount	CAD 538 652
beneficiaries	ECOWAS, WAEMU, traders and transport operators
executing agency	Borderless Alliance
time-frame	November 2015 – March 2020

Trade transactions at West Africa's fast-paced borders involve numerous stakeholders navigating different procedures, with delays in cross-border operations raising the stakes. Traders' frustrations start to rise as trade flows slow down in the absence of a focal point to speed up queries, resolve disputes and share updates on border protocols and procedures.

“ We often send stakeholders back to the Centre to get information, which we may have but do not have the time to give to people. So, the presence of this Centre helps us save time so we can concentrate on our core duties.”

Ousmane Traoré, Customs Border Commander, Diboli Border, Mali

Intra-regional trade in ECOWAS makes up an estimated 10.6% of the sub-region's total trade.⁷ Reducing bottlenecks at the border has significant potential to boost competitiveness and trade performance, all the more so in light of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

3

Border Information Centres set up to support traders

The Fund project, led by the Borderless Alliance, has supported trade facilitation in West Africa by reducing trade barriers to the cross-border movement of goods, people and services. The project, which was completed in March 2020, set up three new Border Information Centres to make information accessible to traders, cutting time and trade costs.

Since operations began in 2016, trade advisors have been trained to run the new Centres operating at border posts between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, and between Senegal and Mali. In addition, baseline studies have mapped out trade activities at the borders. As a result of the project's technical assistance, capacity building, advocacy and information-sharing activities, the time involved in moving goods at the border locations has reduced.

“

The arrival of the Centre has helped stakeholders a lot. We have our eyes on transactions at the Kidira and Diboli borders through the Border Information Centre. If there are small issues between partners – Customs, Shippers, Freight Forwarders and the Police – they are there to help us.”

Boubacar Niang, Regional President,
Malian Shippers Council

In addition, the Centres have been instrumental in improving the coordination of authorities on both sides of the border and strengthening relationships across public and private sector bodies from customs, immigration and SPS services to freight forwarders, transporters and shippers. Activities have led to a common understanding of trade and transport protocols and 3,000 promotional materials on cross-border trade procedures have been disseminated.

“

The establishment of the Border Information Centre has made it possible for us to become aware and to implement new frameworks we didn't know of previously. Anytime we need them, they listen to us and provide us with the necessary advice.”

Sidy Sanogho, Freight Forwarder,
Kidira/Diboli border, Borderless Alliance project
documentary

Going forward, the Borderless Alliance will hand over management of the Centres to host institutions – the Burkina, Senegalese and Malian Shippers Councils – that have backed the operations to date and will support wider training and efforts to assist border stakeholders.

PROJECT RESULTS IN 2019-2020

- Three Border Information Centres are operating in Niangoloko and Kidira with the last Centre having been set up in Diboli in March 2019. Trade advisors are manning each of the centres, providing technical assistance and disseminating information.
- Training sessions on facilitating cross-border trade were organized at each Centre, alongside capacity building workshops held in February 2020. The different sessions brought together over 200 border administration and private sector representatives.



Pillar ii. developing products and markets: getting goods up to SPS standard, stamping quality on products and crossing over to new markets

In 2019 mid 2020, Africa Trade Fund projects under pillar ii. have empowered more women producers and processors in agri-food value chains in West and East Africa. A project on support for African cashew industries was completed in this period that provided 1,500 new jobs in the cashew sector and promoted food safety and quality accreditation. The project has also effectively championed gender awareness and environmental mitigation for cashew businesses across East and West Africa. In addition, a project is ongoing in rural Rwanda that has upgraded a honey collection centre and distributed 2,000 beehives and key accessories to women beekeepers.

Cashew in East and West Africa: processing potential

project overview	
title	Support for African cashew industries (West and East Africa)
location	West and East Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania)
amount	CAD 589 695
beneficiaries	cashew businesses and cashew processors, particularly women
executing agency	African Cashew Alliance (ACA)
time-frame	February 2015 – August 2019

AfTra's project to support cashew businesses and processors in West and East Africa was completed in 2019. The project promoted rural livelihoods, empowered women workers in the sector and championed value addition as well as improving

1500
new jobs created,
70% of them
for women

the sector's environmental impact, resulting in a rise in the efficiency, quality and quantity of cashew processing. Four companies were given targeted support on food safety, technical assistance and

business advisory services, while three factories joined the Seal Program, out of which two received ACA Seal certification. In addition, 1,500 new jobs were created, 70% of them for women who stand to benefit the most from greater opportunities in the cashew sector.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, an environmental assessment study was completed, followed by three workshops to train cashew processors in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Tanzania. Two processors are following up on recommended procedures for environmental mitigation. In addition, a gender assessment was carried out for cashew processing under the project, and five management teams were trained on gender awareness. Moreover, 75 women workers were trained on all areas of primary cashew processing to build up their skills and job prospects.

75
women workers
trained on all areas
of primary
cashew processing

Lessons learned from the project cover the need to sensitize local consumers on the nutritional and health benefits of cashew, to keep promoting food safety certification among processors and engaging value chain actors to produce quality, sustainable products.

RESULTS CASE STORY

Enabling women beekeepers in Rwanda to access markets

project overview	
title	Rwanda honey value chain development project
location	Rwanda
amount	CAD 544 559
beneficiaries	beekeepers, particularly women, and honey processors
executing agency	SERUKA Rwanda
time-frame	December 2016 – June 2021

Keeping bees is an attractive part-time activity for women with limited land or capital in rural Rwanda, allowing them to continue running households and managing other demands. Yet a lack of know-how puts a brake on the benefits they can gain from honey production.

“SERUKA under the funding of African Development Bank rehabilitated the Murambi Honey Collection Center and put accessories which include: honey testing equipment, maturates and extractors and PH Meter to ensure quality honey production.”

Official opening of Murambi Honey Collection Center on 24 January 2020.

More project news:
<https://seruka.org/?-news-events->

The honey sector in Rwanda holds significant potential to transform rural livelihoods through trade, particularly for women who make up 80% of beekeepers in the country. Expanding honey production, quality and standards through modern techniques and practices helps women beekeepers to access markets locally and across East Africa.

The Fund project, led by SERUKA – a non-governmental organization promoting women’s empowerment – is building the capacity of rural honey producers in Rwanda’s Rulindo District to access local and regional markets by boosting productivity and meeting SPS standards. The project supports over 1,000 beekeepers – the majority of them women – to increase their earnings from

honey and added value bee products, promoting prosperity.

Since operations began in 2017, producers have received training in business skills and SPS standards for the honey

sector, with targeted support to expand into higher value products. The distribution of modern beehives is going to boost production among the cooperatives, alongside an upgraded honey collection centre helping them to meet EAC market standards.

Moving ahead, the project will disseminate outreach materials on branding and marketing, alongside continuing to focus on sustaining outcomes linked to cross-border market access including transport logistics and plans for a honey traceability system.

PROJECT RESULTS IN 2019-2020

- Rehabilitation of the Murambi Honey Collection Centre for use by the beekeepers – most of them women – that make up 20 beekeeper cooperatives in the Rulindo district.
- Supply of 2,000 modern beehives and honey processing accessories, including pest traps, bee suits, wax sheets and queen cages, handed over to master beekeepers.

The Fund project supports over **1000** beekeepers



Pillar iii. building capacity for institutions:

collecting market data, analyzing trade gaps, adding value along the chain and supporting negotiations

In 2019–mid 2020, Africa Trade Fund projects under pillar iii. supported countries in Central and West Africa to strengthen their institutional capacity on trade with the latest studies and data. Over this period, a project to improve Guinea’s balance of payment statistics was completed, which shared practical policy recommendations for national bodies and actors on cross-border trade flows and transfer of funds. A project is ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to put in place a roadmap to develop a National Export Strategy, alongside stakeholder workshops.

Guinea: investing in reliable statistics to promote trade flows

project overview	
title	Project to improve balance of payment statistics
location	Guinea
amount	CAD 513 688
beneficiaries	Central Bank, customs administration and National Institute of Statistics
executing agency	Central Bank of Guinea
time-frame	July 2015 – December 2019

AfTra’s project to provide reliable statistics on Guinea’s regional and worldwide trade, in order to unlock the country’s growth potential, was completed in 2019. Thanks to the assistance, data collection at borders was set up and household surveys were carried out, which have sourced quality information on goods and services and built up an overview on the country’s balance of payments. Two studies on cross-border trade flows and the transfer of funds were produced, with policy recommendations for national institutions and actors.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

By the end of 2019, the studies were disseminated, following a robust data collection phase, engaging 22 customs offices, a nationwide survey, and validation workshops on the findings.

The study on cross-border trade showed that a relatively important part of export and import operators go through non-computerized customs offices between Guinea and Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire. Recommendations in the study look at raising awareness of maintaining export and import statistics at the border, carrying out surveys in additional national border posts, and a progressive computerization of other customs border posts.

In addition, the transfers study highlighted that a significant amount of transfers (both those received and sent) are carried out via informal channels. The study recommends that the Central Bank, together with the private sector, develop formal transfer services in particular in rural areas, and make service costs more accessible. This would include modernizing the national system of payments and developing electronic payments to facilitate transfers.

DRC National Export Strategy: driving exports, diversifying the economy

project overview

title	Development of DRC's National Export Strategy
location	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
amount	CAD 619 419
beneficiaries	public and private sector, including exporters
executing agency	Ministry of External Trade
time-frame	February 2018 – December 2021

AfTra support is aiming to equip the DRC with a 10-year strategic framework to increase exports of goods and services, diversify the economy and boost competitiveness. There is strong buy-in to the project from government, as well as from public and private sector stakeholders nationwide.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019-2020, the recruitment of the company leading on the National Export Strategy was finalized, with a provisional roadmap put in place on upcoming activities under the project. The roadmap includes a series of national workshops, involving the private sector, interim reports, a validation workshop and a nationwide workshop to present the Strategy to a wide audience. Activities are due to resume following the lifting of restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project is due to be completed at the end of 2021.





Pillar iv. growing the Bank's knowledge to deliver:

creating stronger trade statistics and research in the Bank and providing quality advisory services

In 2019-mid 2020, Africa Trade Fund projects developed under pillar iv. continued to generate results, with the latest editions of two Bank knowledge products published. Over the period, the second Africa Regional Integration Index – developed by the AUC, ECA and AfDB – showed that levels of integration on the continent are relatively low and sets out a series of recommendations to deepen Africa's integration and build resilient economies. The 2019 Africa Visa Openness Report – launched at the Africa Investment Forum – captured year-on-year progress with African travellers having liberal access to over half the continent.

Africa Regional Integration Index: 2019 Report

project overview	
title	Africa Regional Integration Index
location	Africa-wide
amount	CAD 449,636
beneficiaries	RECs, African countries and African citizens
executing agency	AUC, ECA and AfDB
time-frame	September 2014 – December 2018

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019-20

The second Africa Regional Integration Index was published by the AUC, ECA and AfDB in May 2020, following the first edition produced in 2016 as part of an AfTra project. The 2019 Index was launched at an official webinar hosted by the three African institutions.

The Index provides up-to-date data on the status and progress of regional integration in Africa and helps to assess the level of integration for Regional Economic Communities and member countries. The Index scores across five key dimensions spanning trade, productive capacity, macroeconomic policy, infrastructure, and the free movement of people.

Overall, the 2019 Index shows that levels of integration on the continent are relatively low with an average score of 0.327 out of 1. Africa is shown to be poorly integrated on both productive capacity and infrastructure. The report highlights that although 20 countries score above average, no African country can be considered well integrated in its region.

“If prosperity, social cohesion, and human development are the destination, then regional integration is the path.”

Africa Regional Integration Index, 2019 Report

The Index is a useful tool for tracking progress and helping countries identify key priorities, and includes a call to action for African economies to deepen regional integration, in particular with trading due to start under the African Continental Free Trade Area. In turn, the Index findings underline the importance of integration in building more resilient economies to withstand systematic shocks, such as those caused by the global pandemic



2019 AFRICA REGIONAL INTEGRATION INDEX RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve regional networks of production and trade by enhancing countries' productive, distributive, and marketing capacities.
- Build innovative, regional value-chain frameworks in different sectors using improved technology, higher-quality inputs, and updated marketing techniques.
- Fully implement the AfCFTA to remove non-tariff barriers, which remain a major challenge for regional integration.
- Enhance African workers' competencies to match the technology and production capacities of today and tomorrow to succeed in the global economy.
- Improve infrastructure through increased public-private partnerships, tapping into national resources and using regional and global funds and other innovative tools.
- Implement the Protocol on the Free Movement of People, which will enhance economic growth and allow firms to find skills more easily, in turn driving productivity.

Africa Regional Integration Index Report 2019



Find more information and download the report at www.integrate-africa.org

Africa Visa Openness Index: 2019 Report

project overview	
title	Africa Visa Openness Index
location	Africa-wide
amount	CAD 449 636 (as part of the Africa Regional Integration Index project)
beneficiaries	RECs, African countries and African citizens
executing agency	AUC and AfDB
time-frame	September 2014 – December 2018

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019-20

The Africa Visa Openness Report – first developed under an AfTra project – now in its fourth edition, continued to be widely referenced by policymakers and media in Africa and worldwide. The African Union Commission and African Development Bank launched the Index on the sidelines of the Africa Investment Forum in November 2019 in South Africa.

For the first time, the Index revealed that African travellers have liberal access to over half the continent, that steady progress is being made on visa openness, and that momentum is growing for integration between countries. More policymakers are pushing reforms, making it easier for African businessmen and women, investors, students and tourists to travel beyond borders.

The 2019 top performers on visa openness rank among the top countries for foreign direct investment in Africa, and benefit from strong levels of growth, including in tourism. The Index continued to inspire reforms in the visa regimes of more than ten African countries, unlocking potential for the promotion of intra-regional tourism, trade and investments.

Despite the gains, the findings show more can be done. In 2019, only 26% of Africans were able to get visas on arrival in other African countries, which was up by just 1% compared to 2016. By breaking down borders – once travel measures due to the pandemic lift – Africa can fully capitalize on the gains to be had from the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Single African Air Transport Market and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons.

“ I congratulate those Member States that have taken measures to ease the procedures for the entry of African nationals into their territories, and urge those that have not yet done so to join this growing momentum.”

Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson,
African Union Commission

2019 AFRICA VISA OPENNESS REPORT OVERVIEW

- In 2019, the trend for African countries to further liberalize their visa regimes continued, promoting greater ease of travel for visitors across the continent.
- A record 47 African countries improved or maintained their visa openness score.
- On average, Africans can travel to 27 African countries visa-free or with a visa on arrival.
- Currently, 21 African countries also offer eVisas to make travel more accessible.

VISA OPENNESS SOLUTIONS IN 2019+

- Visa on arrival for Africans and visa-free regional blocs
- Regional bloc visas and multi-year visas after assessing applicant
- Promoting positive reciprocity and opening up on visas unilaterally
- Simplifying the visa process: documents, fees, processing time, online applications
- Improving access to information: online and in different languages

Africa Visa Openness Report 2019



Visa openness findings, 2019

African countries are becoming increasingly open to visitors from across the continent, as the majority of all regions make steady progress on all six indicators.

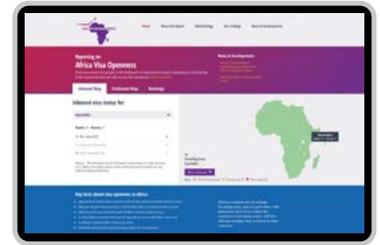
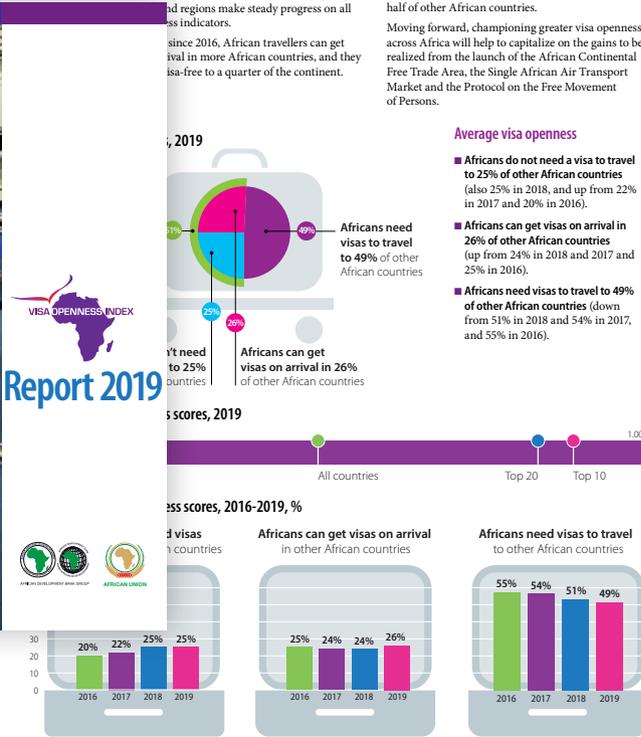
Since 2016, African travellers can get visas on arrival in more African countries, and they are visa-free to a quarter of the continent.

For the first time, Africans have liberal access to 51% of the continent and need visas to travel to less than half of other African countries.

Moving forward, championing greater visa openness across Africa will help to capitalize on the gains to be realized from the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Single African Air Transport Market and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons.



Africa Visa Openness Report 2019



Find more information and download the 2019 report at www.visaopenness.org

Africa Trade Fund film Africa without borders



Africa without borders is a short documentary produced by the AfDB alongside the first edition of the Visa Openness Index, which aims to inspire and inform policy-makers across Africa to build on the benefits of greater visa openness for countries, regions and for the continent as a whole. The film showcases the top performers under the 2016 edition of the Index highlighting the results and lessons of visa openness in Rwanda as a landlocked country and in Mauritius as an island state, and features interviews with both high-level public and private sector officials. Both Rwanda and Mauritius have seen economic gains in financial services, investment and tourism as a result of their open visa policy regimes.

View *Africa without Borders* at www.visaopenness.org/about-the-report

recovery

“ Africa, with its Continental Free Trade Area, huge market size of USD 3.3 trillion, is now the largest free trade area in the world since the creation of the World Trade Organization. With harmonized tariffs, rules, and standards, that is a market no one can ignore in the world.”⁸

Akinwumi A. Adesina, President,
African Development Bank Group

the Africa Trade Fund effect

AfTra is having an effect in unlocking Africa's trade potential through:

operations: delivering through streamlined systems and accelerating timelines and disbursements

results: quality assuring projects that add value and managing for results and sustainable impact

outreach: reaching priority clients continent-wide and building long-term capacity for change



africa trade fund
unlocking africa's trade potential

Africa Trade Fund: sustaining impact beyond 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to severely impact people's lives, business and growth prospects, affecting all countries and regions worldwide, including on the African continent.

In 2019 and 2020, the Africa Trade Fund continued to deliver results across the portfolio, with its active project operations currently being managed remotely and via local networks. Against this backdrop, the Fund pillars - spanning facilitating trade and developing products and markets to building capacity for institutions - are helping to support vital priorities that will boost Africa's economic recovery. In addition, Fund projects are continuing to secure more livelihoods among vulnerable MSMEs, cross-border traders, and women workers.

Across the Fund portfolio in 2020 and 2021, sustainable systems and solutions will continue to be put in place promoting digital connectivity to boost trade across borders and adding value to agri-food products. Bank knowledge products on integration, intra-African investment and visa openness, developed under the Fund, will also continue to advocate for closer cooperation on the continent that will pave the way for a stronger, united Africa.

Moving ahead, work will continue to set up a successor facility in the Bank that builds on the Africa Trade Fund's successful efforts over the last seven years and provides critical ongoing support to champion economically resilient communities and countries across the continent.

FORWARD LOOK WITH THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has the potential to contribute to Africa's economic recovery and growth, with a World Bank Study estimating that by 2035 the AfCFTA could increase intra-African trade by 81% and lift 98 million people out of moderate or extreme poverty.¹⁰

“ If we are looking at a post COVID-19 world, if we're looking at recovery, really the only tool at our disposal that can boost such a recovery is implementing the AfCFTA and doing so in such a way that we significantly boost intra-African trade.”⁹

Wamkele Mene,
Secretary-General, AfCFTA Secretariat

In the wake of the global pandemic, the date for trading under the AfCFTA, which was due to begin on 1 July 2020, was moved to 1 January 2021. The Africa Trade Fund vision is fully in line with the aspirations of the AfCFTA and its operations are continuing to help unlock the ability of Africa to trade with itself and the rest of the world.

performance

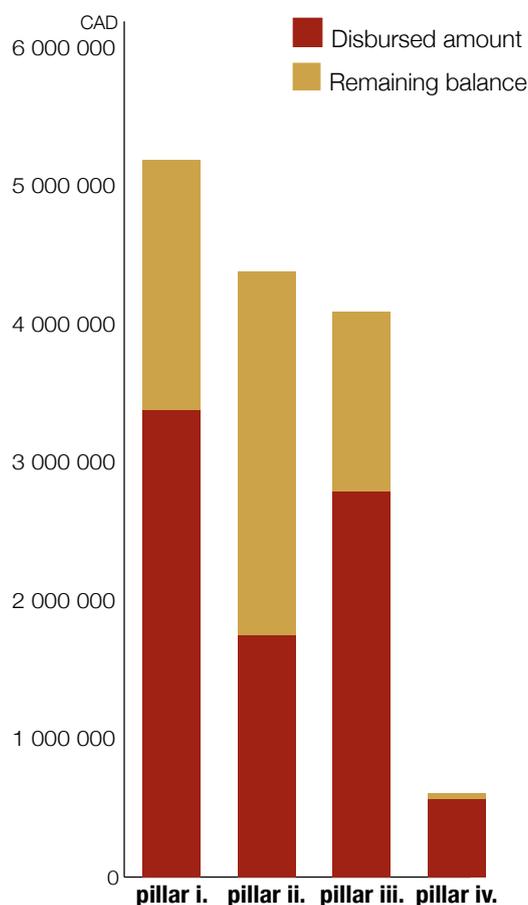
Africa Trade Fund's financial performance



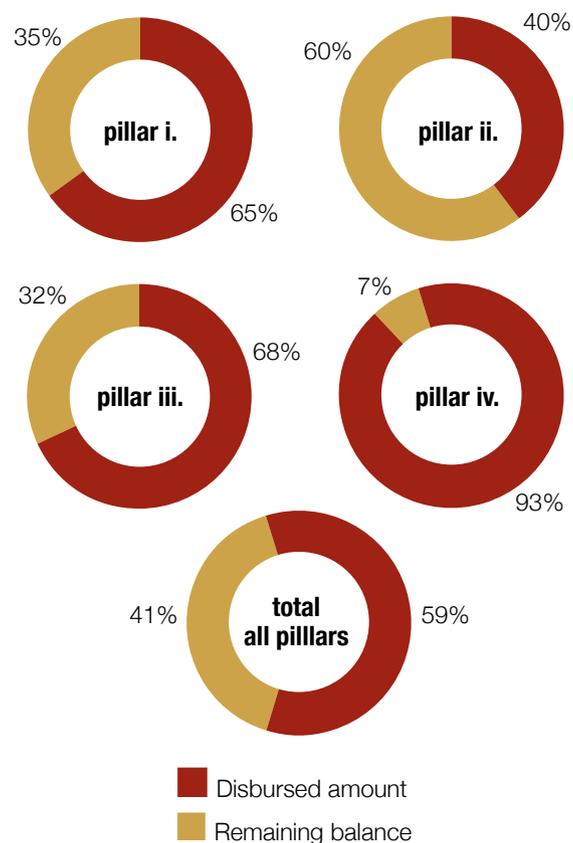
Africa Trade Fund Projects 2013-30 June 2020, by pillar, CAD

pillar	Allocated amount	Cumulative disbursements at 06/30/2020	% disbursed at 06/30/2020
pillar i. facilitating trade	5 187 300	3 377 698	65%
pillar ii. developing products and markets	4 378 373	1 750 094	40%
pillar iii. building capacity for institutions	4 093 561	2 788 253	68%
pillar iv. growing the Bank's knowledge to deliver	610 352	567 269	93%
	14 269 586	8 483 314	59%
<i>Management fees</i>	<i>750 000</i>	<i>416 015</i>	<i>55%</i>
total (CAD)	15 019 586	8 899 329	59%

Total disbursed/remaining by pillar, CAD, 2013-30 June 2020



Total disbursed/remaining by pillar, %, 2013-30 June 2020



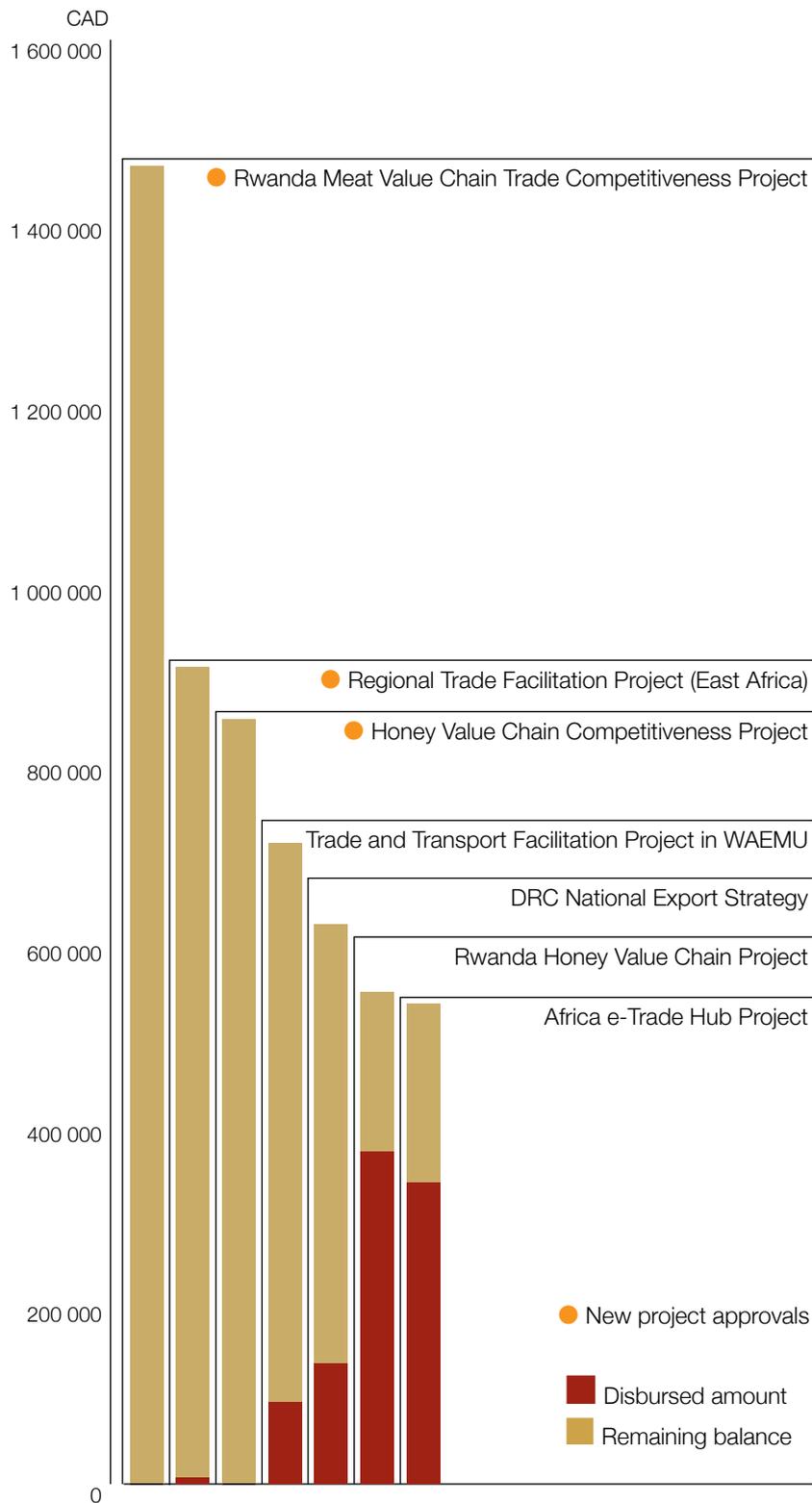
Africa Trade Fund projects 2013–30 June 2020, by project, CAD (continued on next page)

pillar	project name	region/country	Allocated amount	Cumulative disbursements at 6/30/2020	% disbursed at 6/30/2020
pillar i. facilitating trade	Namanga One-Stop Border Post's Soft Infrastructure Project (EAC)	Kenya and Tanzania	750 000	710 882	95%
	Customs Facilitation Project - From paperless trade to mobility	Senegal	587 332	583 991	99%
	Policy and Institutional Reforms for Improved Trade Facilitation in São Tomé and Príncipe	São Tomé and Príncipe	638 660	637 911	100%
	Project to support Trade and Transport Facilitation in WAEMU	West Africa	709 703	90 007	13%
	Support to Women Cross Border Traders in the Mano River Union	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone	525 799	508 001	97%
	West Africa Border Information Centres	West Africa	538 652	506 158	94%
	Africa e-Trade Hub Project	Africa-wide	531 859	333 586	63%
	Regional Trade Facilitation Project (East Africa)	Ethiopia and Djibouti	905 295	7 162	1%
pillar ii. developing products and markets	Harmonization of African Standards for Agriculture and Food Products	Africa-wide	366 920	364 680	99%
	Support for African Cashew Industries in West and East Africa	West and East Africa	589 695	562 060	95%
	Rwanda Honey Value Chain Project	Rwanda	544 559	367 762	68%
	Trade and Institutional Capacity Building in the Apiculture Sector (TICBAS)	Zambia	570 583	455 592	80%
	Honey Value Chain Competitiveness Project	Guinea	846 889	0	0%
	Meat Value Chain Trade Competitiveness Project	Rwanda	1 459 727	0	0%

Africa Trade Fund projects 2013-30 June 2020, by project, CAD (continued from previous page)

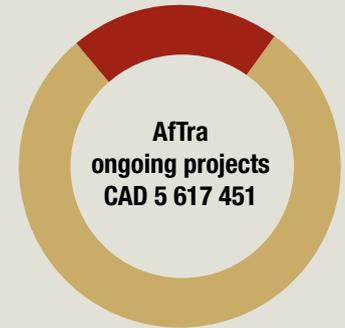
pillar	project name	region/country	Allocated amount	Cumulative disbursements at 6/30/2020	% disbursed at 6/30/2020
pillar iii. building capacity for institutions	Project to improve balance of payment statistics	Guinea	513 688	513 332	100%
	Program of Assistance to Trade Support Institutions in Liberia (PATSIL)	Liberia	998 168	530 613	53%
	Development of the 10-year Madagascar Export Strategy for Industrialization and Services (SEMIS)	Madagascar	103 720	101 796	98%
	Eswatini Aid For Trade Strategy	Eswatini	88 646	62 868	71%
	EAC Aid For Trade Strategy	Eastern Africa	101 800	77 259	76%
	Technical Support to the African Union for Renewal of AGOA and Trade and Investment Promotion	Africa-wide	400 000	345 440	86%
	COMESA Trading for Peace Project	Eastern and Southern Africa	969 528	778 320	80%
	DRC National Export Strategy	Democratic Republic of Congo	619 419	133 911	22%
	SADC Transit and Border Management Reforms Project	Southern Africa	298 592	244 714	82%
pillar iv. growing the Bank's knowledge to deliver	Intra-Africa Investment Report	Africa-wide	106 716	99 578	93%
	Strategy and Knowledge Consultant	Africa-wide	54 000	51 383	95%
	Africa Regional Integration Index (includes Visa Openness Report)	Africa-wide	449 636	416 308	93%
<i>Management fees</i>			<i>750 000</i>	<i>416 015</i>	<i>55%</i>
		total	15 019 586	8 899 329	59%

Africa Trade Fund ongoing projects as of 30 June 2020, CAD



Africa Trade Fund projects as of 30 June 2020, CAD

Disbursed amount
CAD 932 429
17%



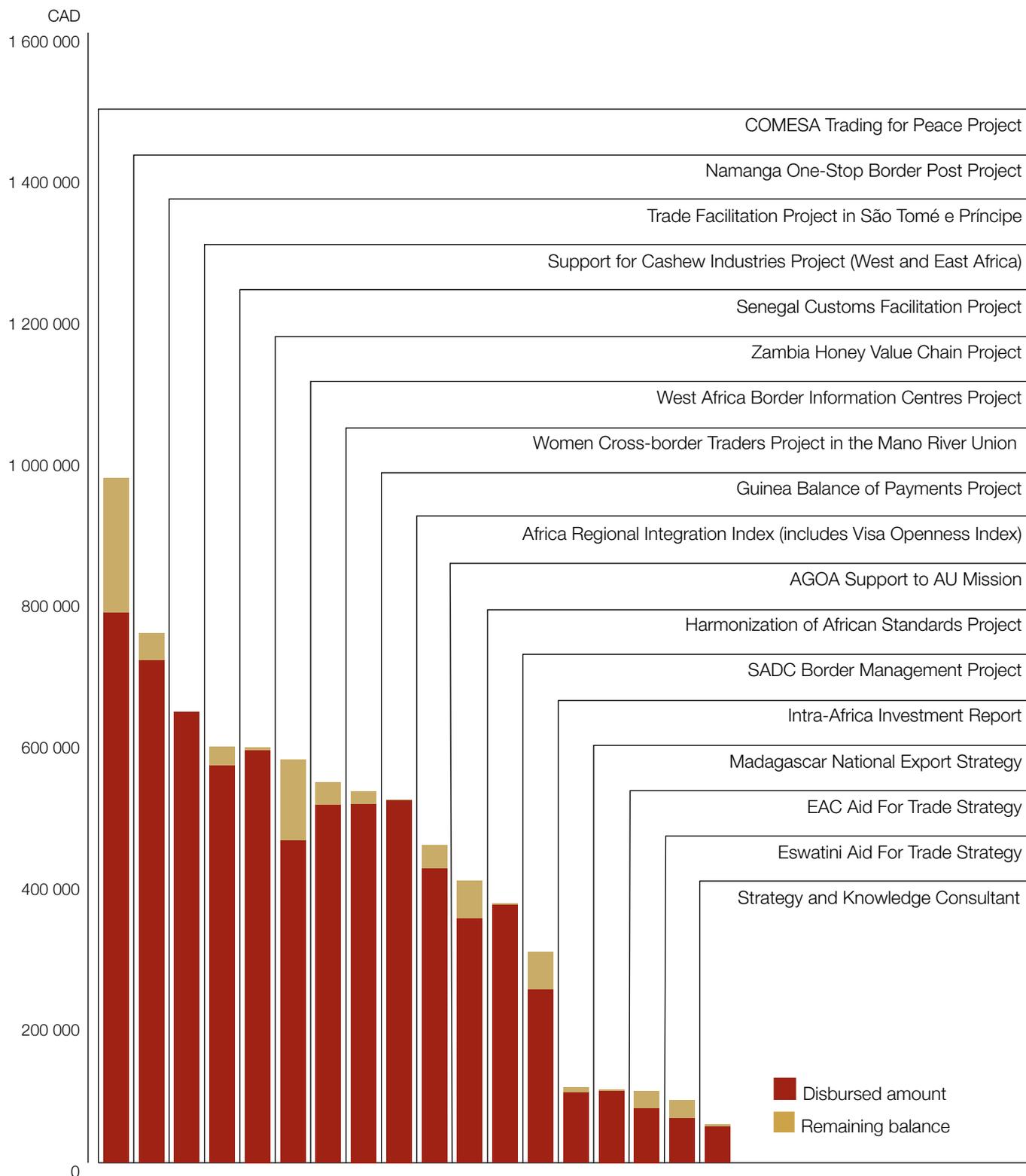
Remaining balance
CAD 4 685 022
83%

Disbursed amount
CAD 7 020 272
92%



Remaining balance
CAD 633 695
8%

Africa Trade Fund completed projects as of 30 June 2020, CAD



AfTra secretariat



AfTra governance structure



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