

Africa

An introduction to our capabilities



Mayer Brown and Africa

Mayer Brown has a **dedicated Africa practice group** working on deals and cases in **more than 35 countries** throughout the continent. We offer our clients practical experience, technical skills and commercial knowledge of the **various African markets, cultures and languages** and understand the challenges and rewards that exist when doing business in Africa. Our lawyers are qualified in a broad cross-section of jurisdictions and who, in many cases, have the ability to work in several languages including **English, French and Portuguese**.

In Africa, we have our alliance firm, **Afrique Advisors** in Morocco as well as active desks in Angola and Mozambique.

What we offer

The African continent provides a wealth of opportunities both to clients seeking to expand their operations and to new entrants to these countries. Our Africa specialists support clients with an interest in African jurisdictions and have proven experience in addressing and resolving issues as they arise. We have a comprehensive track record in both common and civil law jurisdictions throughout Africa, working on matters across a wide range of industries.



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about our Africa capabilities

or scan the
QR code here



How we can help

We are able to support clients in all aspects of their projects and operations in Africa, offering:

- **A dedicated, internationally-qualified team** with experience of working on a range of matters in Francophone, Anglophone, Lusophone and other jurisdictions;
- **The firm's fully integrated skills** in key areas such as project finance, export and agency finance, compliance and investigations, international arbitration, M&A and joint ventures across a plethora of industry clusters including energy, mining, infrastructure, and industrials;
- **Global coordination** throughout our Mayer Brown offices across the Americas, Asia and Europe to provide seamless communication and prompt action regardless of where parties are located;
- **Tried and tested project management skills** to ensure that both on-site and remote support on African projects is delivered effectively; and
- **An established network of local counsel** throughout the continent.

Who we service

We present a full service offering across all client segments.

Multilateral Development Banks

Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) that provide integrity compliance as well as risk capital for economic development projects on a non-commercial basis.

Lenders and sponsors

- // Commercial and Investment Banks
- // Export Credit Agencies
- // Investors and Investment Funds

A 'client first' culture drives our people to deliver value wherever we are and whoever we service.

Public Sector

National governments and implementing agencies working in conjunction with DFIs or independently.

Corporates

- // Local/domestic companies
- // Multinational corporations

Practice and sector expertise

Our structure comprises of practice groups providing specialist legal expertise combined with industry knowledge offering sector insights in Africa.



Finance and Projects

We advise on a broad range of debt financings ranging from bilateral to syndicated loans, project development and highly structured finance transactions.

Corporate

We advise on all aspects of corporate law including M&A, joint ventures, divestitures, and general corporate advice.

Compliance and Investigations

We have a dedicated Risk and Compliance team focusing on regulatory and corporate risk handling the most complex regulatory investigations and compliance advisory work.

Dispute Resolution

With one of the largest practices worldwide, we are well-placed to resolve complex, high-stakes disputes whether by way of court litigation or international arbitration.

Mining / Oil & Gas / Power / Infrastructure / Banks /
Healthcare / Hospitality & Leisure / Public-Private
Partnerships / Investment Management / Manufacturing
/ Construction & Engineering

Note: Our practice groups supporting Africa are not limited to the above. We are also able to provide specialist advice in other practice areas including restructuring, IP/IT, capital markets, employment, real estate, tax and international trade.

Our value proposition



Partner-led Approach

We provide a **partner-led service**, assigning a lead partner to direct and manage each assignment **from inception to completion**, giving our clients the comfort and security of knowing that this individual will keep them informed and be able to answer any of their questions about a transaction or dispute at every stage. To facilitate work that often takes place under tight deadlines, our lawyers ensure:

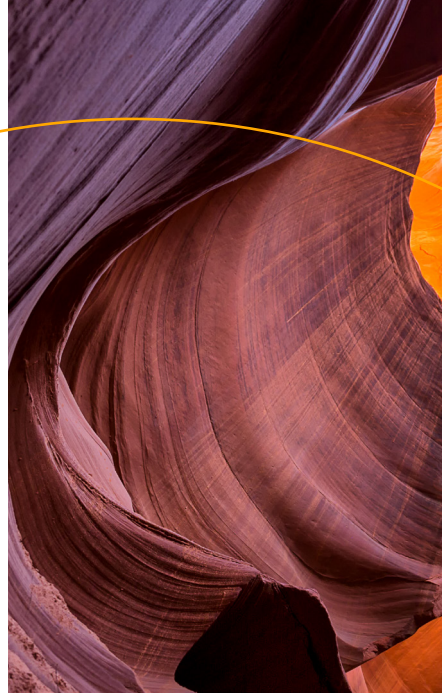
- // that there is proper analysis of the transaction or dispute at its outset;
- // early identification of potential problems; and
- // rigorous project planning and timelines.

We will make sure our approach is flexible enough to allow for and to deal with last-minute issues, and we have a proven ability to field additional lawyers and resources from our worldwide offices at short notice to meet our clients' needs.

Capacity Building

We are firmly committed to Africa and over the many years that we have worked within the continent, we have provided the opportunity for **training and the transfer of legal knowledge to local African lawyers and consultants** involved in the projects we have worked on. We always structure our work to include suitable knowledge transfer to our clients. We consider this to be an important differentiator in the work we do.

We are active participants in the **ILFA flagship secondment programme** which provides African lawyers the opportunity to work at Mayer Brown offices. We also support training through the **AILA Scheme**, providing knowledge transfer to African lawyers in relation to investment arbitration. In addition, we have also designed internships and training programmes to African clients to support transfer of knowledge and know-how as intrinsic to assignments that we undertake.



Correspondent Law Firms

We have an **established and evolving network** of local counsel that we have relationships with. We will engage the local counsel that has the “best fit” to work on each assignment based on their strength and experience related to the matter. Our unbiased approach allows us **to collaborate with firms with quality benchmarks that are similar to ours** so that there is no difference in the level of service provided to our clients.

Our track record

Finance and Projects

- **Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania** on several prospective hydrogen projects, including a \$40 billion **green hydrogen project** consisting of 30 GW of solar and wind powering electrolyzers, a desalination plant, an ammonia plant and an export facility.
- **Africa Finance Corporation** on its provision of a \$21 million stream facility and \$54 million credit facility to fund Thor Explorations' **Segilola Gold Project in Nigeria**. The Segilola Gold Project is the first of its kind in Nigeria and the financing was achieved against the challenging backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Government of Benin** and the **MCA-Benin II** (an entity of U.S.-based Millennium Challenge Corporation) on the **first independent solar and thermal power projects in the country**. Mayer Brown advised on the development and financing of four solar power plants totaling 50 MW. We also advised the **Government of Benin** on the development of a 41 MW combined-cycle power plant in Maria Gléta, Benin.
- **Karadeniz**, a leading Turkish company in the energy sector, on the negotiation, development and financing of **floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) facilities** in Africa including **floating storage and regasification (FSRU) projects** in **Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa** and **Côte d'Ivoire**.
- **Two leading PRC Banks** as mandated lead arrangers in the €167 million facility made to the **Republic of Benin**, as part of the country's largest **infrastructure development and the first export credit financing** made by Chinese banks in support of Chinese construction companies for projects in Benin.

Corporate

- **VAALCO Energy, Inc. (VAALCO)** on its arrangement agreement with TransGlobe Energy Corporation (TransGlobe). VAALCO will, subject to the satisfaction of certain closing conditions, acquire all of the outstanding common shares of TransGlobe in a stock-for-stock strategic business combination valued at \$307 million. The combination of VAALCO and TransGlobe will create a world-class **African-focused exploration & production company** listed on exchanges in New York and London, with assets located in **Egypt, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea** and Canada.
- **CNODC** (China National Oil & Gas Exploration and Development Company), a subsidiary of CNPC (China National Petroleum Company) in multiple legal issues including project agreements, regulatory/concession related issues and multiple day-to-day corporate and tax advice, as one of the **sponsors of the Mozambique's Rovuma Basin Area 4 LNG Project**.
- **Toro Gold Limited**, the private gold producer, on the sale of its entire share capital to **Resolute Mining Limited** for circa \$300 million. Toro's flagship asset, the low-cost, high-margin **Mako Gold Mine located in eastern Senegal** became Resolute's fourth mining facility.
- **Tidewater Marine**, an international petroleum company based in Houston, on the negotiation of a joint venture with **Sonangol Sonatide Marine Angola** and in the restructuring of its Angolan operations.
- **ENH, the Mozambican National Oil Company**, on its joint venture with **Vitol**, a Dutch energy and commodities trading company headquartered in Switzerland on the launch of a commodity trading company, ENH Energy Trading.

Compliance and Investigations

- **African Development Bank** to act as the **Independent Integrity Consultant** for a large Asian company following sanction for prohibited practices in a number of African countries. Following our mandate, the company successfully applied for early release from debarment. This appointment followed earlier mandates **reporting to the World Bank as monitor in respect of companies operating in Africa and elsewhere**. In addition we have assisted companies under monitorship including assisting the **Monitor Liaison Office of a major global bank** over a five year period.
- **Moroccan government** in relation to **trade defence investigations** including safeguard, anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations and trade-related issues in relation thereto. In particular, advice in relation to the **WTO compatibility of procedures and assessments**.
- **A publicly traded UK construction company** in the internal investigation relating to **allegations of bribery** involved with the building of a \$100 million hospital in Morocco, including activities in Dubai. As a result of the internal investigation, the company self-disclosed to the UK Serious Fraud Office and became **the first company in history to resolve a bribery matter under Section 7 of the UK Bribery Act**.
- **One of the world's largest hotel groups** during and after a **terrorist assault on a hotel in Mali**. Mayer Brown was retained while the terrorists were still in the hotel in order to assist in **crisis management issues**, and later to conduct an internal investigation and security assessment, as well as coordinate with law enforcement and intelligence agencies from several different countries.

Dispute Resolution

- **Republic of Gambia** in an arbitration proceedings against Carnegie Minerals (Gambia) Limited.
- **Compagnie Sahélienne d'Entreprise (CSE)**, a Senegalese engineering and infrastructure company in an ICC award dispute against the Republic of Guinea over an airport road network contract.
- **A local engineering company** concerning DAB proceedings and ICC arbitration in relation to claims under a FIDIC contract with a US contractor in relation to a major rural electrification project in Tanzania.
- **An African educational institution** in relation to expert determination and international arbitration proceedings in relation to claims arising from the termination of a PPP project.
- **An employer** regarding claims made by an EPC contractor in relation to a major Angolan LNG project.

Pro bono

- **A not-for-profit organisation** focused on transparency and corruption-free governance, on a project to review and benchmark **Kenya's draft Conflicts of Interests Bill** against international best practice.

Diplomatic Representations

- **Brazilian-Mozambican Association**, an organisation that promotes economic relationships between the two countries, on businesses and projects with aggregate value over \$850 million.

Talk to us: Europe

London



Ian Coles
Partner, Finance
T: +44 20 3130 3205
E: icoles@mayerbrown.com



Simon Price
Partner, Real Estate
T: +44 20 3130 3748
E: sprice@mayerbrown.com



Rachel Speight
Partner, Finance
T: +44 20 3130 3859
E: rspeight@mayerbrown.com



Robert Hamill
Partner, Corporate & Securities
T: +44 20 3130 3558
E: rhamill@mayerbrown.com



Kirsti Massie
Partner, Finance
T: +44 20 3130 3000
E: kmassie@mayerbrown.com



Bob Palmer
Partner, Corporate & Securities
T: +44 20 3130 3363
E: bpalmer@mayerbrown.com



Barry Cosgrave
Partner, Finance
T: +44 20 3130 3197
E: bcosgrave@mayerbrown.com



Kwadwo Sarkodie
Partner, International Arbitration
T: +44 20 3130 3335
E: ksarkodie@mayerbrown.com



Ashley McDermott
Partner, Finance
T: +44 20 3130 3120
E: amcdermott@mayerbrown.com



Luiz Abiom
Partner, International Arbitration
T: +44 20 3130 8763
E: laboim@mayerbrown.com



Jonathan Hosie
Partner, Construction and Engineering
T: +44 20 3130 3343
E: jhosie@mayerbrown.com



Sam Eastwood
Partner, Compliance & Investigations
T: +44 20 3130 3087
E: seastwood@mayerbrown.com

Paris



Olivier Mélédo

Partner, Finance
T: +33 1 53 53 18 66
E: omeledo@mayerbrown.com



Dany Khayat

Partner, Litigation and International Arbitration
T: +33 1 53 53 36 31
E: dkhayat@mayerbrown.com



Alban Dorin

Partner, Finance
T: +33 1 53 53 43 43
E: adorin@mayerbrown.com



Nicolette Kost De Sèvres

Partner, Compliance & Investigations
T: +33 1 53 53 88 22
E: nkostdesevres@mayerbrown.com

Frankfurt



Bernina Butt

Partner, Finance
T: +49 69 7941 1099
E: bbutt@mayerbrown.com



Talk to us: Americas

Rio de Janeiro



Alexandre Chequer

Partner, Corporate & Securities
T: +55 21 2127 4212
E: achequer@mayerbrown.com



Gonçalo Falcão

Partner, Corporate & Securities
T: +55 21 2127 4239
E: gfalcao@mayerbrown.com



Paulo Rage

Partner, Corporate & Securities
T: + 55 21 2127 4247
E: prage@mayerbrown.com

São Paulo



Michel Sancovski

Partner, Anti-Corruption & Compliance
T: +55 11 2504 4672
E: msancovski@mayerbrown.com

Houston



Norman Nadorff

Special Counsel, Corporate & Securities
T: +1 713 238 2653
E: nnadorff@mayerbrown.com

Washington DC



Gabriela Sakamoto

Partner, Finance
T: +1 202 263 3029
E: gsakamoto@mayerbrown.com

New York



George Miller

Partner, Finance
T: +1 212 506 2590
E: [gmiller@mayerbrown.com](mailto:gmillier@mayerbrown.com)

Los Angeles



Jason Linder

Partner, Global Anti-Corruption & FCPA
T: +1 213 229 5132
E: jlinder@mayerbrown.com

Chicago



Brian L. Kuhl

Partner, Finance
T: +1 312 701 8765
E: bkuhl@mayerbrown.com

Talk to us: **Asia and Middle East**

Singapore



Nick Kouvaritakis

Partner, Finance
T: +65 6327 0234
E: nick.kouvaritakis@mayerbrown.com

Tokyo



Rupert Burrows

Managing Partner
T: +81 34563 1403
E: rupert.burrows@mayerbrown.com

Beijing



Hallam Chow

Partner, Finance
T: +86 10 6599 9289
E: hallam.chow@mayerbrown.com

Dubai



Tom Thraya

Managing Partner
T: +971 4 375 7161
E: tthraya@mayerbrown.com



Barry Cosgrave

Partner, Finance
T: +971 4 375 7160
E: bcosgrave@mayerbrown.com



About Mayer Brown

Mayer Brown is a **distinctively global law firm** uniquely positioned to advise the world’s leading companies, governments and financial institutions on their most complex deals and disputes. With extensive reach across four continents, we are the only integrated law firm in the world with approximately **200 lawyers in each of the world’s three largest financial centres—New York, London and Hong Kong—the backbone of the global economy.** Our **“one-firm”** culture—seamless and integrated across all practices and regions—ensures that our clients receive the best of our knowledge and experience.



More than
1,800
lawyers
worldwide

250
Chambers-ranked
Lawyers

27
offices located in
the Americas, Asia,
Europe and the
Middle East

Clients'
global, cross border
legal needs all fully
supported



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