



country profile											
government structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive: The president is the chief of state, and the prime minister is the head of government. The president is directly elected by absolute majority popular vote, in two rounds if needed, for a single renewable five-year term. Cabinet is appointed by the president. • Legislative: Senegal has a unicameral National Assembly. • Judicial: The highest courts are the Supreme Court and Constitutional Council. Subordinate courts include the High Court of Justice (for crimes of high treason by the president), Courts of Appeal, Court of Auditors, Assize Courts, regional and district courts, and Labour Court. • Next presidential elections: March 2029. 										
economic data	<table> <tr> <td>• Nominal GDP (USD billions):</td> <td>38.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• GDP per capita (USD):</td> <td>2 062.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Inflation rate (% change):</td> <td>1.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Government revenue (% of GDP):</td> <td>21.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Government gross debt (% of GDP):</td> <td>58.29</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>*Source: IMF (May 2024 estimates)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key drivers of Senegal's economy include mining, tourism, construction, fisheries, and agriculture. Major offshore oil and gas discoveries have been made off the Senegalese coast during the past decade. • Industrial production in Senegal is more developed than in most western African countries. Both food-processing and handicraft industries are well established. • The main industries include agricultural and fish processing, phosphate mining, fertiliser production, petroleum refining, zircon, gold mining, construction materials, and ship construction and repair. • Senegal's main export partners are Mali, India, Switzerland, the United States, and China. The main export commodities include gold, phosphoric acid, refined petroleum, fish, and precious metal products. • Senegal's main import partners are China, India, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The main import commodities include refined petroleum, ships, rice, crude petroleum, and plastic products. 	• Nominal GDP (USD billions):	38.69	• GDP per capita (USD):	2 062.40	• Inflation rate (% change):	1.50	• Government revenue (% of GDP):	21.74	• Government gross debt (% of GDP):	58.29
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risk ratings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S&P Global Overall Country Risk (Q2 2024): 103/211 • Corruption Perceptions Index (2023): 70/180 										

international treaties and memberships	
international and regional organisations and customs unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement • African Development Bank Group • African Union • Central Bank of West African States (<i>Banque Centrale des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest</i> ("BCEAO")) • Community of Portuguese Language Countries (<i>Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa</i>) (Associate Observer) • Economic Community of West African States ("ECOWAS") • Group of 15 • Group of 77 • International Monetary Fund • International Organization of the French-speaking World (<i>Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie</i>) • Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States ("OACPS") • Organisation of Islamic Cooperation • Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa ("OHADA") • Senegal River Basin Development Organization • United Nations • West African Economic and Monetary Union ("WAEMU") (<i>Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine</i> ("UEMOA")) • World Bank Group • World Customs Organization • Senegal receives preferential treatment under the following agreements: http://ptadb.wto.org/Country.aspx?code=686
bilateral investment treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senegal has entered into bilateral investment treaties, which are in force with Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Qatar, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States. • Treaties have been signed with Egypt, Kuwait, Mali, Morocco, Portugal, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates, but these have not yet entered into force.
investment-related agreements / institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Growth and Opportunity Act • Samoa Agreement (it succeeds the Cotonou Agreement and its provisional application commenced on 1 January 2024. The Agreement will enter into force upon consent by the European Parliament and ratification by all European Union member states and at least two thirds of the OACPS members) • Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency • World Trade Organization

dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention) • Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (ICSID Convention) • OHADA • Permanent Court of Arbitration • United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
intellectual property ("IP") treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive list of IP-related treaties signed by Senegal is available at: https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/members/profile/SN?collection=treaties • See the trade marks section below for further detail.
legal regime	
applicable legal regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senegal has a civil law system based on French law and judicial review of legislative acts in the Constitutional Court.
dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OHADA treaty provides an arbitration procedure. Disputes relating to the general OHADA Uniform Acts, or any other business dispute, can be submitted to the OHADA arbitration procedure. • All national legislation has been superseded by the OHADA Uniform Act on Arbitration Law.
land acquisition, planning and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign investors may be eligible either for a long-term lease of property or full ownership, depending on the legal status of the property as provided for in the laws and regulations in force. In practice, most properties are only available under a long-term lease. • Property titles and a land registration system exist in Senegal, but their application is not uniform outside urban areas and can complicate the process of acquiring land.
competition	
<i>merger control</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a national level, the competition law regime is governed by Law No. 94-63 dated 22 August 1994 on Prices, Competition and Economic Disputes (the "Competition Law") and its implementing Decree No. 95-77 dated 20 January 1995. • The Competition Law does not contain any provisions with regards to merger control. Merger control in Senegal is dealt with at regional level (Senegal being a member of WAEMU and ECOWAS). • According to Directive 02/2002/CM/UEMOA, the WAEMU Commission and the national authority are responsible for monitoring different aspects of competition law in Senegal. • Pursuant to Directive No. 02/2002/CM/UEMOA, the WAEMU Commission has exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and sanction anticompetitive practices including abuses of dominance (and, as a consequence, merger transactions which are regarded as abuses of a dominant position when they create or reinforce a dominant position leading to a significant

	<p>impediment to effective competition within the Common Market). Member states are only competent to assist the WAEMU Commission with investigations and to monitor their internal market in order to detect any anticompetitive conduct. In this regard, member states are required to report any anticompetitive conduct to the WAEMU Commission, and to transfer any filing seeking negative clearance, individual exemption, or complaint that they may receive to the WAEMU Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of the WAEMU Regulations, a merger is defined as (i) a merger between two or more previously independent undertakings; (ii) the acquisition by one or more persons already controlling at least one undertaking, or by one or more undertakings, whether by purchase of securities or assets, by contracts or by any other means of direct or indirect control of the whole or parts of one or more undertakings; or (iii) the creation of a joint venture performing on a lasting basis all the functions of an autonomous economic entity. • The WAEMU merger control regime is a voluntary merger notification regime. Merging parties can implement a proposed transaction without prior competition approval (at their own risk). • Parties may seek advance clearance for a transaction and may file to obtain "negative clearance" or an individual exemption. • Mergers are analysed in light of the provisions applicable to abuses of dominance. Merger transactions will be regarded as an abuse of a dominant position where they create or reinforce a dominant position leading to a significant impediment to or distortion of competition in the market. • There is no provision for filing fees, however, parties may be liable for an administrative fee for voluntary merger notifications. • Given that merger notification is voluntary, there is no risk of penalty for failure to notify unless the parties are found to have implemented a merger which amounts to an abuse of dominance. In such a situation, parties may face a fine ranging from F.CFA500 000 to F.CFA100-million (which amount can be increased to 10% of the annual turnover of each of the parties). • Senegal is also a member of the two regional competition bodies, ECOWAS and OHADA. OHADA does not yet have an operational regulator and it is understood that its merger control regime is not yet functional. ECOWAS has an operational merger control regime. Merger activities in Senegal should thus be conducted with this regional competition body in mind.
<i>prohibited practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticompetitive practices are governed and regulated by the WAEMU Commission. • The Competition Law prohibits cartel conduct and abuses of a dominant position – however, the prohibition of cartels and abuse of dominance has not been implemented at national level since the transfer powers to the WAEMU Commission. The competition authority in Senegal does, however, remain competent to sanction the following unilateral restrictive

	<p>practices: refusals to sell where purchasers' requests are not abnormal and present all technical and financial guarantees; abuse of economic dependence; discriminatory practices; resale price maintenance; and resale below cost except in identified circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A firm which engages in the unilateral restrictive practices identified above, may receive a direction from the Senegalese competition authority to put an end to the practice. Non-compliance with this injunction is subject to a fine ranging from F.CFA100 000 to F.CFA20-million. In terms of the WAEMU Regulations, horizontal and vertical agreements, decisions, and concerted practices between undertakings, which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction, or distortion of competition, are prohibited, unless they are exempt. The WAEMU Regulations prohibit cartel conduct (such as price fixing and market division) and abuses of dominance. At WAEMU level, a firm which engages in an anticompetitive horizontal or vertical agreements or that abuses its dominant position commits an offence and may face sanctions, the amount of which is between F.CFA500 000 and F.CFA100-million and can be increased to the equivalent of 10% of the annual turnover or assets of the infringing companies. OHADA does not regulate prohibited practices. ECOWAS regulates anticompetitive practices. Activities in Senegal should be conducted with this regional competition body in mind.
employment	
<i>immigration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work permits are required for foreign individuals wishing to take up employment and residence in Senegal. The type of required work permit depends on the employee's qualifications and duration of work. Visas are compulsory for all foreign nationals travelling to Senegal, except nationals from ECOWAS, Mauritania, and Morocco.
<i>local employment vs secondment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of Senegal's employment legislation, employees seconded to Senegal must be employed by a local entity. In terms of Senegal's immigration legislation, employment by a local entity is a prerequisite to apply for a work permit. The employment contract must also be signed by the Director of Labour in order for the employee to be eligible for a foreign identity card, which is mandatory for all foreign workers.
<i>fixed-term contracts and temporary employment services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed-term employment contracts are allowed in Senegal. However, a fixed-term contract may only be renewed once and the maximum period for which a fixed-term contract may be concluded is two years (including the renewal). The use of labour brokers is permitted and is common practice in Senegal. Labour broker agencies are required to be licensed and registered.
<i>payment in local currency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remuneration must be paid in local currency.

<i>restraint of trade agreements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restraint of trade agreements are valid and enforceable in Senegal. However, such an agreement can only be concluded for one year and within a 50km radius from the employer's place of work.
foreign investment regime	
investment regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Investment Code (Law 2004-06 of 6 February 2004) generally governs foreign investment in Senegal. Investments in the mining and petroleum sectors are subject to sector-specific legislation. An investment one-stop shop (<i>Agence de Promotion des Investissements et Grands Travaux</i> ("APIX")), is responsible for providing administrative support to investors throughout the investment process.
registration / licensing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies must register with the following agencies through the investment one-stop shop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Directorate General of Taxation and Domains ("DGID"); the Commercial Registry (<i>Registre du Commerce et du Credit Mobilier</i> ("RCCM")) for purposes of registering the company bylaws; the <i>National des Entreprises et des Associations</i> ("NINEA") to obtain a company identification number (<i>Numéro d'Identification National des Entreprises et des Associations</i>); the Labour Authority to register workers and the commencement of operations; the Social Security Authority (<i>Caisse de Sécurité Sociale</i> ("CSS")); and the Retirement Benefits Institution (<i>Institut de Prévoyance Retraite au Sénégal</i> ("IPRES")), which manages the mandatory national old-age insurance scheme.
non-industry specific registrations / licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above.
industry-specific licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry-specific licences may also be required.
incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific tax credits available to companies investing more than F.CFA100-million in the creation or extension of an establishment in specified sectors; specific benefits, negotiated directly between the investor and government, available to investments exceeding F.CFA250-billion; benefits to entities operating in special economic zones (<i>zones économiques spéciales</i> ("SEZs")); benefits available to companies operating in the agriculture, industrial or telecommunication services sectors, and exporting of their production;



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefits to new businesses being set up or existing activities being expanded, including exemption from customs duties and VAT for a period of three years and a reduced corporate income tax rate for five years; specific incentives available to the mining and petroleum industry in terms of the Mining Code and Petroleum Code respectively; and a five-year tax incentive available to real estate developers.
exchange control regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senegal is a member of WAEMU and subject to the WAEMU Unified Foreign Exchange Regulations. In terms of the WAEMU Regulations, investment from outside the monetary union can be made without approval from the local Minister of Finance. However, direct investment must be reported by the relevant local commercial bank to the office of the BCEAO for statistical purposes. The income and capital of foreign direct investments may be repatriated freely from Senegal.
types of entities available for foreign investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forms of doing business available in Senegal are mainly the following provided for by the OHADA Uniform Act on Commercial Companies and Economic Interest Groupings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public limited company (<i>société anonyme</i> ("SA")); simplified limited liability company (<i>société par actions simplifiée</i> ("SAS")); private limited liability company (<i>société à responsabilité limitée</i> ("SARL")); general partnership (<i>société en nom collectif</i>, SNC); limited partnership (<i>société en commandite simple</i>, SCS); joint venture (<i>société en participation</i>); de facto partnership (<i>société de fait</i>); economic interest grouping (<i>groupement d'intérêt économique</i>, GIE); registered branch of a foreign company; and representation or liaison offices.
private limited liability company	
minimum number of shareholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARL SA SAS: A minimum of one shareholder is required. In principle, local shareholders are not required, but may be required in certain specified sectors such as mining, oil and gas.
minimum share capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following minimum share capital requirements apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARL: at least F.CFA1-million whose face value may not be less than F.CFA5 000; SA: F.CFA10-million; and SAS: no minimum required share capital.
directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARL: must have at least one managing director (<i>gérant</i>). It is recommended that someone who is either based in or regularly travels to Senegal be appointed as managing director, as it is required for such a

	<p>person to hold a long term-visa. There is no requirement to appoint directors / managers in addition to the managing director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA: must appoint a chairperson of the board who can also act as general manager of the company (<i>directeur général</i>). A board of directors with three to 12 members, including a chairperson, is to be appointed. SAS: free to determine its management structure, which should, as a minimum, consist of one chairperson. There is no requirement to appoint a board of directors.
company secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no requirement to appoint a company secretary in Senegal.
auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARL and SAS: must appoint a statutory auditor when two of the following three conditions are met at the end of the financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> its total balance sheet exceeds F.CFA125-million; the annual turnover exceeds F.CFA250-million; or the permanent staff exceeds 50 employees. SA: appointment of an auditor is mandatory. SAS: appointment of an auditor is mandatory where an SAS effectively controls one or more companies, or where an SAS is effectively controlled by one or more companies.
registered address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every company must have a registered office in Senegal which must be indicated in the Articles of Association. The address of the company's accountants or lawyers may be used as registered address for an interim period.
shelf companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no shelf companies available in Senegal.
registration process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies are registered at the RCCM (through the investment one-stop shop), and it takes approximately six days to complete registration once all the required documents have been submitted.
tax	
tax system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senegal has a residence-based taxation system in terms of which residents are subject to tax on their world-wide income, whereas non-residents are subject to tax only on their Senegal-sourced income.
corporate residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A company is generally deemed to be a resident of Senegal if it is registered in Senegal or if its head office or principal establishment is located in Senegal.
corporate tax rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident companies and permanent establishments of foreign entities are liable for corporate income tax at the rate of 30%. A minimum tax (<i>impôt minimum forfaitaire</i>) is levied on the previous year's turnover at the rate of 0.5%, limited to a maximum of F.CFA5-million. A simplified regime (<i>régime du réel simplifié</i>) is applicable to companies with an annual turnover (including taxes) of less than F.CFA100-million.

capital gains tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital gains are generally included in ordinary taxable income and subject to corporate income tax at the standard rate. Gains from the transfer of immovable property, and mining and petroleum rights are subject to tax (<i>taxe sur les plus values immobilières</i>) at the rate of 15% for the transfer of undeveloped or underdeveloped land and 10% in other cases. The tax paid is creditable against corporate income tax. 																				
withholding tax ("WHT") rates	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">payment to</th> <th colspan="2">WHT rate</th> </tr> <tr> <th>residents</th> <th>non-residents*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>branch profits</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Effective rate of 10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>dividends</td> <td>10% (subject to the participation exemption regime)</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>interest</td> <td>6%/13%/15%/20% (bonds and notes) 8% (bank deposits) 16% (other interest)</td> <td>6%/13%/15%/20% (bonds and notes) 8% (bank deposits) 16% (other interest)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>royalties</td> <td>5% (if company is not registered for tax and the amount invoiced is at least F.CFA25 000)</td> <td>Effective rate of 20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>management, consulting, and technical service fees</td> <td>5% (if company is not registered for tax and the amount invoiced is at least F.CFA25 000)</td> <td>Effective rate of 20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* The withholding tax rate may be reduced in terms of a relevant double tax agreement.</p>	payment to	WHT rate		residents	non-residents*	branch profits	N/A	Effective rate of 10%	dividends	10% (subject to the participation exemption regime)	10%	interest	6%/13%/15%/20% (bonds and notes) 8% (bank deposits) 16% (other interest)	6%/13%/15%/20% (bonds and notes) 8% (bank deposits) 16% (other interest)	royalties	5% (if company is not registered for tax and the amount invoiced is at least F.CFA25 000)	Effective rate of 20%	management, consulting, and technical service fees	5% (if company is not registered for tax and the amount invoiced is at least F.CFA25 000)	Effective rate of 20%
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double tax agreements ("DTAs")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTAs are in place with Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Taiwan, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and WAEMU member states (including Benin, Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, and Togo). 																				
losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Losses may be carried forward for a period of three years and depreciation may be carried forward indefinitely. 																				
transfer pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of Senegal's transfer pricing rules, the tax authorities could tax profits indirectly transferred to related parties by over- or under-estimating the purchase or sale price of goods exchanged. Two companies are considered to be "related" if: 																				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> one of them has a direct or indirect minimum holding of 50% in the capital of the other or <i>de facto</i> control over the other company; or a third company has a direct or indirect minimum holding of 50% in the capital of both companies or exercises <i>de facto</i> control over both companies. 														
limitations on interest deductibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest paid by a company to its shareholders or related parties is only deductible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the interest rate does not exceed the BCEAO interest rate plus three percentage points; and the debt does not exceed one and a half of the company's fully paid-up share capital and 15% of earnings from ordinary activities plus interest, depreciation, and provisions. 														
employee taxes	<p>The income tax rates applicable to resident and expatriate individuals are:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>annual chargeable income (F.CFA)</th> <th>tax rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>up to 630 000</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>630 001 – 1 500 000</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 500 001 – 4 000 000</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 000 001 – 8 000 000</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 000 001 – 13 500 000</td> <td>37%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>over 13 500 000</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	annual chargeable income (F.CFA)	tax rate	up to 630 000	0%	630 001 – 1 500 000	20%	1 500 001 – 4 000 000	30%	4 000 001 – 8 000 000	35%	8 000 001 – 13 500 000	37%	over 13 500 000	40%
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social security contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both employees and employers must make monthly social security contributions to the CSS and pension contributions to the IPRES. The employer contribution rates to social security are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family allowance: 7% of remuneration, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA63 000 per month; work injury and disability: 1% / 3% / 5% of remuneration, depending on type of activity and level of risk, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA63 000 per month; and health contribution: between 2% and 7.5%, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA250 000. The employee health contribution rate to social security is between 2% and 7.5%, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA250 000. The general employer pension contribution rate is 8.4%, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA432 000 and an additional rate of 3.6% for executives, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA1 296 000. The general employee pension contribution rates are 5.6%, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA432 000 and an additional rate of 2.4% for executives, with a monthly salary cap set at F.CFA1 296 000. 														
payroll taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A payroll tax (<i>contribution forfaitaire à la charge des employeurs</i>) is payable by employers at a rate of 3% of the gross amount of remuneration (including benefits in kind) paid by employers to their employees. 														

stamp duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stamp duty is levied on a number of instruments at rates varying from F.CFA2 000 to F.CFA6 000 depending on the size of the deed. The transfer of immovable property situated in Senegal is subject to registration duty at the rate of 5%, as well a real estate levy (<i>droit de publicité foncière</i>), levied at the rate of 0.8% on the transaction value. Registration duty at the rate of 1% is generally payable on the transfer of shares and bonds. However, a substantial transfer of shares may be taxed at the rate of 5%.
value added tax ("VAT")	
<i>taxable supplies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAT is levied on the supply of goods and services in Senegal and on the importation of goods and services.
<i>VAT rate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18% 10% (renting of rooms and catering services by hotel businesses)
<i>registration threshold</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person making taxable supplies of goods and services in the course of a business is required to register for VAT purposes.
<i>reverse VAT on imported services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident companies are required to account for output VAT in respect of imported services rendered by non-resident companies where the foreign service provider has not registered for VAT or appointed an agent to collect VAT from the customer. Resident companies using the services to make taxable supplies may only claim VAT on services involving a transfer of know-how as an input credit.
trade marks	
international conventions, treaties, and arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Madrid Protocol Nice Agreement Paris Convention Trade Mark Law Treaty World Intellectual Property Organization Convention World Trade Organization / Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) (all <i>Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle</i> ("OAPI") countries are members except Comoros and Equatorial Guinea) <p><i>*Note</i></p> <p>Senegal is a member of OAPI. OAPI has a central registry in Cameroon which facilitates the central filing of IP rights, including trade marks. An OAPI application automatically covers all member countries, as the member states had to renounce their national IP laws to become members. It is therefore not possible to file individual national applications in any of the OAPI member states.</p> <p>OAPI member states include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea,</p>

	Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, and Togo.
classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification) applies. A single application may cover any number of classes.
categories of trade marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision is made for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collective trade marks; ordinary trade marks (goods and service trade marks); and geographical indications.
filing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full particulars of the applicant; Power of Attorney, in French or English, simply signed (per application); electronic representation of the trade mark; and a certified copy of the priority document (if applicable), with a verified French or English translation.
procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An application is filed at the OAPI office in Cameroon. Applications are examined for formal compliance with formal requirements only. If the office finds that the conditions for registration have been met, the trade mark registers, and the registration is published.
oppositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition may be lodged within six months following the date of advertisement of the registration. No extensions are allowed.
duration and renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trade mark registration is effective for an initial period of 10 years and, thereafter, renewable for further periods of 10 years.

ENS is a full-service law firm with significant experience and specialist expertise that spans all commercial areas of law, tax, forensics, and IP across Africa. For more information or assistance please contact:

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