

# NEWSLETTER

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## Free zones AFRICA

AFRICA FREE ZONES

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# INVESTMENTS IN AFRICAN FREE ZONES



Coris Bank international has signed, on behalf of its subsidiary in Ivory Coast, a guarantee agreement worth CFA1.72 billion (\$3.2 million) with African solidarity fund (FSA). This initiative enables the bank to finance the creation and exploitation of a quarry in the country. According to FSA's commitments, the guarantee will supersede the borrower when the latter fails to pay back the loan, but only up to a previously agreed percentage. As for Coris Bank Ivory Coast, this is an opportunity to increase the portfolio of its loan in the economy, while minimizing pressure on its fundamentals and comply with the standards to be followed by WAEMU's commercial banks as far as risks taking are concerned. Official data on the bank's activities in 2017 are not yet available but, in terms of guarantee, the fund has granted nearly CFA29 billion in 2016, supporting the financing of 28 projects by various banks in the region.

Source : <http://www.ecofinagency.com/>

SUCAF CI, a subsidiary of French agribusiness group SOMDIAA, plans to inject CFA84 billion into the Ivorian sugar sector. This investment is intended to bridge the domestic market's deficit and subsidize sugar export to promote its competitiveness. SUCAF, created in 1997 following sugar sector's privatization, manages two sugar factories in Ferkessedougou, in the Northern part of Côte d'Ivoire. These facilities have a total production capacity of 105,000 tons of brown and white granulated sugar, produced on 14,600 ha of sugarcane plantations.

Source : <http://www.ecofinagency.com/>



Dire Dawa for a textile plant that will be built with an investment of 220 million U.S. dollars on 40 hectares of land. The construction of the textile plant will take 30 months and is expected to employ 3,000 Ethiopians once commissioned. The plant will be located inside Dire Dawa Industrial Park (DDIP) that is currently being constructed by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). DDIP, currently being built at a cost of 159 million U.S. dollars on 159 hectares of land, is expected to attract industries specialized in textile, apparel, and agro-processing. Ethiopian government is financing the construction of the industrial park which is expected to be commissioned later this year. The textile plant's cornerstone laying ceremony was held in the presence of Liu Yu, economic and commercial counselor at the Chinese embassy in Ethiopia and Ibrahim Usman, mayor of Dire Dawa city administration.



# DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA FREE ZONE



In Kenya, tea export incomes are expected to reach KSh135 billion (\$1.3 billion) in 2018, up by KSh6 billion compared to the results from the previous year, Reuters reports. According to Kenyan tea directorate, this performance should be spurred by an increase in export based on an assumption of production rebound in 2018 fostered by better weather condition. Tea output should thus be estimated at 452,000 tons in the actual season against 439,850 tons (due to warm and dry weather in Q1), in 2017. In the country, tea is the main export crop in foreign currency earnings. Pakistan, Egypt, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Russia were the major destinations of Kenyan tea, in 2017.

Source : <http://www.ecofinagency.com/>

Burkina Faso wants to build eight additional solar photovoltaic power plants with a total capacity of 100 MW in 7 of its regions. Two of these plants, 10 MW and 20 MW, will be implemented in the Central region while one (15 MW) will be set up in Sahel and another one of 10 MW in the East. As for Boucle du Mouhoun, it will have a plant of 15 MW and the Hauts-Bassins a 10MW plant. Northern region and Cascades will each have a 10 MW plant. The construction of the facilities, which will require areas of 20-60 ha, each, is an extension of the Burkinabe energy mix's diversification process. The latter has already led to the building of Zagtoui PV plant (33 MW), the largest in West Africa.



Source : <http://www.ecofinagency.com/>