

Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Programme Stakeholder Meeting, Washington DC, USA

Washington DC, 18 April 2018

Key Points

- Participants from multilateral development banks, the private sector, governments and academia expressed strong support for the Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Programme.
- The main issues that need to be addressed to ensure the programme's success are: selection and retention of Fellows to the public-sector employer; articulation of the benefits to the programme's private-sector sponsors; strengthening local ownership from African governments; and transparency of the programme's processes.
- Participants advised that the programme should integrate existing courses and organizations such as the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Certification Programme and the Africa Legal Support Facility (ALSF), a public international institution hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group.
- The discussion welcomed the radical shift in approach – compared to other efforts – to skills development, which includes the greater involvement of the private sector in training programmes.
- Capacity among the private-sector companies in many African jurisdictions was also raised as a barrier to more successful infrastructure procurement and delivery. This was largely seen as outside the scope of the programme.
- Support for participants and an ongoing network were also seen as critically important elements for the success of a programme of this nature.

Selection and Retention of Fellows to the Procuring Authority

- Multilateral development banks have made a significant contribution to capacity building for PPPs, but a lack of local skills and resources for the preparation of a PPP pipeline and bankable PPP projects poses a serious limitation in most African countries.
- Participants recognized that selecting and retaining talent after the programme will be the greatest challenge to its success.

- There is concern that Fellows who participate in the programme and receive the vocational training will be inclined to leave their government “day job”.
- Participants suggested that clear governance models and more detail on the structure of the programme would help in determining how to address this issue.
- It was proposed that the selection of countries to participate in the programme should be based on whether a jurisdiction has a pipeline of projects that can be realized, such that there are clearer benefits to upskilling participants.

How Does the Private Sector Benefit from the Programme?

- It was clearly stated that the incentives for further private-sector participation should be defined and developed.
- Participation in the programme by the private sector is a strategic move towards long-term benefits that can be in the form of an increased flow of bankable projects in African countries. Private-sector participants emphasized that becoming involved in the programme will be beneficial to the overall supply of bankable opportunities in a country's infrastructure plan.
- It was emphasized that the benefits of the programme should not be confused with providing the private-sector sponsor with a competitive lead compared to other non-participating private-sector partners that are involved in a bidding process.
- Governance and structure of the programme were seen as integral to demonstrating value to all parties.
- By actively taking part in the programme, companies provide a closer preview of what's happening on the market to the procurement officials.

Strengthening African Government and Private-Sector Ownership of the Programme

- During the meeting it was emphasized that for the programme to be successful, the sense of ownership should be cultivated among government and public-sector officials of the “host countries”. For this reason, the supporting organizations will organize a systematic outreach to African governments and private-sector organizations based in the continent.

Transparency

- Although corruption should not be taken for granted in public procurement, corruption can arise if processes are not carefully planned and designed. PPPs are not exempt from this risk. Prevention of corruption requires the integration of anti-corruption approaches during project design. Participants in the session emphasized that existing mechanisms need to be employed to increase transparency for the programme to be successful and create the right incentives for all partners to participate.

Next Steps

The Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Programme Partners understand the key issues and encourage the private sector to offer further feedback to solve some of the discussed challenges. It is essential that all Partners voice their remaining concerns and offer technical solutions from the point of view of the best-positioned stakeholders to guide this programme.

The Partners of the Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Programme call on:

- the private sector to join the programme and pledge financial support
- governments to support the programme through the successful delivery and participation of public-sector officials and financial contribution
- multilateral development banks to provide technical expertise and pledge their financial contribution

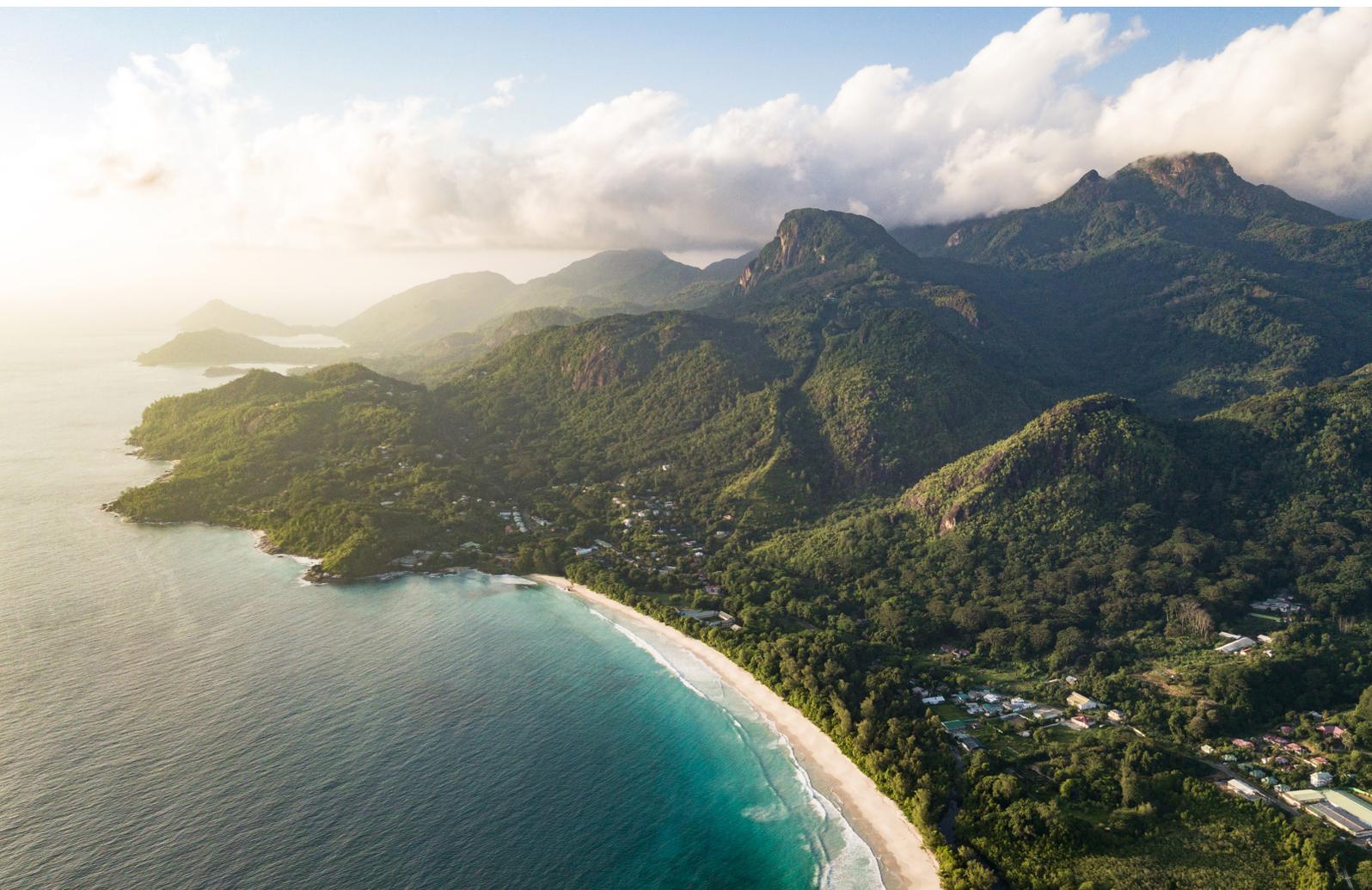
All interested participants are welcome to join the official launch of the Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Programme. The date and location will be communicated accordingly.

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List of Participants

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Rashad R. Kaldany	Partner & Chief Investment Officer	Blue Orange Capital	USA
Alexander Sekhniashvili	Director of Project Engagement	CG/LA Infrastructure	USA
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Thomas Maier	Senior Advisor for Infrastructure	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UK
Chris Heathcote	Chief Executive Officer	G20 Global Infrastructure Hub	Australia
Mark Moseley	Chief Operating Officer	G20 Global Infrastructure Hub	Australia
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Evron Rothschild Hughes	Technical Economic Advisor	Office of the President	Ghana
Philip Oxhorn	McGill University	Professor of Political Science	Canada
Francois Bergere	Head, Programme Manager	Public – Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF)	USA
Ru Nyambuya	VP, Client Coverage, Corporate & Investment Banking	Standard Bank	South Africa
Philip Moss	Head	Sustainable Development Investment Partnership (SDIP)	Switzerland
Tapiwa Dube	Transaction Adviser	Sustainable Development Investment Partnership (SDIP) Africa Hub	South Africa
Chigozirim Bodart	Executive Secretary's Office	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Ethiopia
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