



About TrustAfrica

TrustAfrica is an independent foundation that strives to secure the conditions for democracy and equitable development throughout the continent.

Led by Africans, we convene dialogues, catalyze ideas, and provide grants and technical assistance to organizations working to advance these goals.

Our programs focus on:

- Democracy & Civil Society
- Equitable Development
- African Philanthropy

We also award competitive research grants through our:

- Investment Climate &
Business Environment
Research Fund

HEADQUARTERS

TrustAfrica
Lot 87, Sacré Coeur 3
Pyrotechnie x VDN
BP 45435
Dakar-Fann, Senegal

T +221 33 869 46 86

F +221 33 824 15 67

E info@trustafrica.org

W www.trustafrica.org



George Osodi/Panos Pictures

Promoting African Enterprise and Livelihoods

TrustAfrica awards competitive grants for research and analysis of factors influencing investment and business on the continent.

In partnership with the International Development Research Centre and the Foundation for Sustainable Enterprise and Development, we've set up a special fund to promote enterprise and livelihoods in Africa through research and advocacy. Known as the Investment Climate and Business Environment (ICBE) Research Fund, it awarded approximately US\$1,481,000 in its first two rounds of funding.

The ICBE Research Fund uses competitive research grant mechanisms, training workshops, and institution-building partnerships between business schools and private-sector organizations to contribute to a better investment climate and business environment in Africa. The Fund operates in English and French and includes all regions of the African continent.

First Round: 2006-2007

Our first call for proposals, issued in June 2006, drew 236 submissions from universities, business schools, and independent research institutions in 30 African countries. We enlisted a team of peer reviewers to grade the proposals and then assembled a pan-African jury to select the winners, who set to work analyzing such issues as regulation and reform in procurement; investment and corporate governance; supply chains and the informal sector; public and private sector partnerships; capital markets and foreign direct investments; energy and poverty in rural areas; and the creation and growth of youth and women enterprises. In all, we awarded 17 small research grants of up to US\$10,000 and 12 intermediate research grants of up to US\$50,000. Here are some of the first-round winners:

- University of Dar es Salaam (Faculty of Commerce) in Tanzania received US\$10,000 for a research project by Mussa J. Assad entitled "Foreign currency risk: Awareness and management practices in Tanzania". ▶



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FUNDERS TO DATE

Ford Foundation

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Humanity United

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Open Society Institute

Oak Foundation

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

And many individuals like you

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- University of Cape Town in South Africa received US\$50,000 for a research project by Ralph Hamann entitled “Collaborative governance: Public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder partnerships”.
- l’Université Polytechnique de Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso received US\$50,000 for a research project by Denis Ouedraogo entitled “The perception of environmental problems by business leaders in Burkina Faso and strategies to implement sustainable development practices”.
- Uganda Management Institute in Kampala, Uganda, received US\$49,956 for a research project by Michael Mugabira entitled “Supply-chain rigidities and business survival in the Ugandan fishing industry sector”.

Second Round: 2007–2008

Our second call for proposals, issued in August 2007, introduced a new category of large grants (up to US\$100,000 each) for research on cross-border initiatives and regional economies. It also announced the availability of additional small and intermediate grants (up to US\$10,000 and US\$50,000, respectively). Scholars and researchers from 16 countries applied, focusing on finance, public services (such as education and infrastructure), agriculture, trade, energy, and telecommunications. Some proposals also addressed cross-sector domains including governance, entrepreneurship, law reform, and alternative dispute resolution. These are a few of the 24 second-round winners:

- Centre Africain d’Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG) in Dakar, Senegal, received US\$100,000 for a research project by Boubacar Baidari entitled “The challenges of improving governance in universities and institutions of higher learning with a view of improving the business climate in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)”.
- Centre International de Médiation et d’Arbitrage à Tanger in Tangiers, Morocco, received US\$48,000 for a research project by Mohammed Bakkali entitled “An assessment of alternative commercial dispute resolution options and their impact on the business environment in Morocco”.
- Kwame Nkrumah University for Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, received US\$45,430 for a research project by Ahmad Addo entitled “Technical and economic feasibility studies for biofuels—Small and medium enterprise (SME) development in Ghana”.
- l’Université Catholique d’Afrique Centrale in Yaoundé, Cameroon, received US\$100,000 for a research project by Sylvain Kuate entitled “Taking stock of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA)”.

Review: 2008–2009

Now in its third year, the ICBE Research Fund is undergoing a thorough review to draw lessons from the first two rounds and thereby refine its operations. TrustAfrica staff and partners are taking a close look at the grants competition to identify opportunities for improvement. We are also assessing the nature, quality, and impact of the research findings and developing a series of case studies to help them reach a wider audience. ■