



Kigali International Financial Centre

There has never been a better time to invest in Africa, and the continent's fast-growing financial hubs such as Kigali International Financial Centre (KIFC), are giving investors that opportunity. KIFC began operations in early 2020, and was established to facilitate international investment and cross-border transactions across Africa, while also positioning Rwanda as a preferred financial jurisdiction for African investments.

KIFC debuted on the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) in September 2021. We were among the **top 5 IFCs in Sub-Sub-Saharan Africa** and have been identified as one of the most promising financial centres in the coming decade. This is largely due to our reputation as being highly compliant with international standards, ease of operations, our location serving markets in East and Central Africa, along with our country's strong leadership and good governance system that is underpinned by the rule of law.

African economies have been among the fastest growing in the world over the last 10 years, with **GDP having tripled since 1990**. Of the world's fastest-growing economies, African countries are frequently listed and Rwanda sits firmly among these countries. Rwanda is working hard to showcase itself as an attractive destination for international investors and our recently launched International Financial Centre is the vehicle through which we plan to do this.





Compliance with international standards

Rwanda has developed a robust compliance framework - **18 laws** have been introduced in the last two years, building a legal and regulatory structure for regional and international investors that adhere to the highest international standards. One such law provides fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for foreign experts who take up residency in Rwanda and intends to attract expertise and investors in the financial and tech sectors.

Separate laws also provide for preferential tax exemptions for startups and the establishment of new legal structures such as trusts, foundations, and special purpose vehicles. Together, these laws are transforming our investment landscape and contributing to making Rwanda a preferred financial jurisdiction for investments in Africa. Our partnerships with organisations like the British International Investment in the UK, which plays an advisory role in this area, have been key to the development of these laws.

Complying with international standards is crucial as we aim to position KIFC as one of the leading financial centres in Africa. We will continue to do all we can to ensure that Rwanda offers international investors an attractive, pro-business environment in full compliance with international standards and regulatory requirements.

Additionally, as a way to incentivise investors, Rwanda has signed double tax avoidance agreements (**DTAAs**) with ten countries including **Luxembourg, Morocco, Mauritius, Qatar, Singapore**, and **China**. Our growing network of DTAAs provides the legal certainty, transparency and reliable international tax framework that is critical for those who want to invest in Rwanda and through KIFC.



Investment Funds

KIFC has attracted great interest from the private sector and institutional investors and it has resulted in the domiciliation of more than **\$600 million worth of funds**, some of which include: the **\$350 million FEDA fund**, an-African trade and export fund established by AfreximBank supporting and fostering intra-African trade; **\$250 million Virunga fund** between the Qatar Investment Authority and Rwanda Social Security Board; and the **\$10 million Angel Investment SPV**, a regional special purpose vehicle registered in Kigali, by a network of African based angel and venture capital investors – Dakar Network of Angel Investors (DNA).

With particular attention to the Virunga Africa Fund I in November 2021, this is the first phase of the pan-African investment fund and will be domiciled in Kigali, with regional activities across four key markets in Eastern and West Africa. The fund will invest in critical sectors such as education, financial services, healthcare and the digital economy and it aims to enable economic and social transformation across the region.



Fintech and Innovation

Rwanda is providing tax incentives for forward-thinking fintech companies and enacting critical laws to establish a pro-business regulatory framework for our growing fintech ecosystem. The regulatory sandbox established by the National Bank of Rwanda is achieving its aims of turning Rwanda into a proof-of-concept hub, as several unicorns have sought out Kigali as a base to consolidate their regional operations.

For example, cross-border payments firm Chippercash, co-founded by a Ghanaian and Ugandan, has recently been valued at **\$2.2 billion** after a series of investment rounds and is one of our first investors. At the recent KIFC event at the Commonwealth Business Forum in Kigali, Chipper Cash announced they will begin operating locally after they acquired an e-money issuer licence, which will see them facilitate money transfers in Rwanda and abroad. It's an example of a fintech company growing exponentially as a result of innovations created for the many Africans underserved by traditional financial methods. We are excited at the huge opportunities such innovations can bring to our country.

While the fintech industry continues to accelerate financial inclusion in sub-Saharan Africa, KIFC is committed to leveraging this exciting opportunity for Rwanda. The majority of Africa's population is unbanked and underserved by traditional financial institutions, while also being ready to adopt new innovations. As a result, fintech start-ups are growing exponentially.



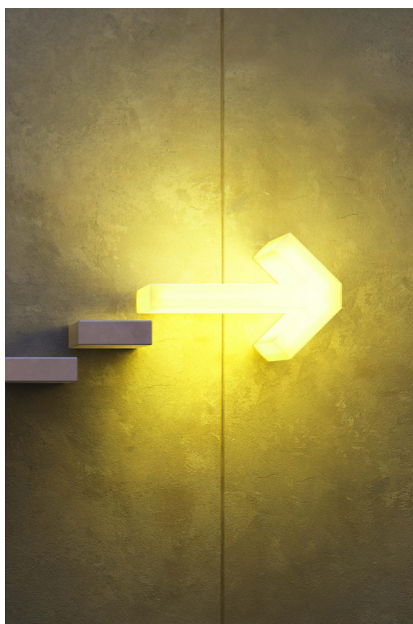
ESG

KIFC is developing avenues for ESG-driven investment in Rwanda and Africa. In particular, Rwanda has seen an accelerated shift towards green and sustainable financing, having recently joined the Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S), a collective of international financial centres aiming to accelerate the shift to sustainable finance and achieve the goals of the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Rwanda is also a member of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, which seeks to enhance performance on ESG issues and encourage sustainable investment by providing a global platform for collaboration between local and regional exchanges. Later this year, KIFC is also set to launch the 10-year Sustainable Finance Roadmap, coinciding with this year's COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

Impact investment has become a mainstream financial instrument in recent years. We are extremely pleased that one of our impact investors, Chancen International, recently secured a \$21 million investment which will provide student financing for **10,000 young people** in Rwanda and South Africa.

Rwanda is well-positioned to attract gender-focused investment. A recent World Economic Forum report ranked Rwanda 9th in the world for closing the gender gap which was the highest in Africa. Gender equality and empowerment of women have been one of the main tenets of the government's Vision 2050 and a core step in the national transformation of Rwanda.



The road ahead

As the year continues KIFC will continue to bolster our international financial services to ensure our nation is an attractive proposition for local, regional, and global investors.

We will continue doing what is at the core of KIFC's mission – connecting people with brilliant opportunities – the investment world with Africa, Rwandans with an exciting future, and people with jobs and careers, while becoming a major economic and financial international hub.

Now is the time to invest in Africa, and look no further than Kigali.