

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC92018

Project Name	
Region	AFRICA
Country	Africa
Lending Instrument	IPF
Project ID	P162044
Borrower Name	Smart Africa Alliance Secretariat
Implementing Agency	Smart Africa Alliance
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	13-Oct-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	15-Jun-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Economies, governments and societies cannot thrive without reliable connection to markets, information, services and each other. Such connections have been moving from physical to virtual at an accelerating pace. Countries at all levels of development now need to ensure that their businesses, citizens and institutions are equipped to participate, innovate and flourish in an increasingly online environment or risk being left behind and isolated. African countries are no exception.

A multifaceted approach is required for African countries to pursue digital development. They need to make sure that their laws, regulations and policies promote competition and investment in digital technologies and services, they need to ensure that all citizens, institutions and businesses have the skills to use ICTs to access services and information and improve their productivity, they need to invest in ICT infrastructure and undertake proactive strategies to ensure affordability and access to ICT services for all citizens without displacing private investment, and they need to develop the capacity and infrastructure to delivery public services utilizing digital platforms. The requirements are large and growing and the underlying technological trends and best practices are constantly evolving.

The Smart Africa Alliance was founded in response to these challenges ➤(to help countries build the technical skills and institutional capacity and to develop the plans needed to implement their digital development aspirations ➤(learning from and supporting each other along the way.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Smart Africa is an alliance of 13 African countries (Rwanda, Uganda, Gabon, South Sudan, Kenya,

Senegal, Mali, Chad, Angola, Burkina-Faso, Djibouti, Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea), with expansion ongoing to new member countries. It was founded as an outcome of the Transform Africa Summit of October 2013 to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development and usher Africa into the knowledge economy era through smart use and leveraging of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). The vision guides countries to leverage ICT to improve sustainable development and improve accountability, efficiency and openness through ICT. The Secretariat is based in Kigali and President Kagame has been a lead champion of the initiative.

The Alliance is guided by five pillars/focus areas, as reflected in the Smart Africa Manifesto. These include (1) Policy, (2) Access, (3) e-Government, (4) Private Sector/Entrepreneurship and (5) Sustainable Development.

The Alliance adopted the Smart Africa Action Plan in 2016, which translates the manifesto goals and pillars into a practical work program. Key priorities identified in the Action Plan include:

- Smart Africa Program and Flagships developed and implemented
- Smart Africa Board decisions implemented
- Smart Africa Agenda promoted and disseminated
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship promote
- An effective and efficient Secretariat operationalized

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

ICTs can be leveraged to enhance socio-economic development, reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The proposed development objective is to build capacity of the Smart Africa Secretariat and member states to execute the Smart Africa Action plan at the continental and national level.

Key Results

- 1.) Number of national ICT strategic plans and regional flagship projects developed
- 2.) Number of leaders trained in advanced ICT development concepts and strategies
- 3.) Number of Countries joined Alliance
- 4.) Number of Startups supported
- 5.) Number of young digital innovators supported
- 6.) Number of staff recruited and trained

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	

Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.7	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source		Amount	
Korea WB Partnership Facility		0.7	

VI. Contact point

World Bank

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