AFCAI 2026 executive brief

The Africa FTZ Country Attractiveness Index is an annual comparative publication examining national Free Trade Zone ecosystems across 54 African countries. The inaugural 2026 edition uses a 2025 reference year and organises the comparison through 33 indicators across six dimensions.

What the framework examines

Dimension	Weight
D1 Policy and regulatory framework	25%
D2 Infrastructure and logistics quality	20%
D3 Incentive structure and competitiveness	15%
D4 Administrative efficiency	15%
D5 Performance and market validation	15%
D6 Regional and trade integration	10%

Purpose and intended use

AFCAI provides a common structure for asking how legal frameworks, infrastructure, administration and demonstrated performance interact. Policymakers and zone authorities can use it to frame reform questions; investors and development institutions can use it as an initial research input; researchers can examine its assumptions and evidence.

Interpretation

The unit of analysis is the national FTZ ecosystem, not an individual zone. National averages can obscure local variation. Comparative scores are not certifications, investment recommendations or substitutes for country and project due diligence. Classification groups and operational status describe different aspects of the assessment.

Publisher and research

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