

Project Disclosure

Project: Fishing Port Project Benin

Date: 13 October 2026

1. **Client / Project name:** Relocation of an artisanal fishing port in the port of Cotonou, Benin
2. **Client's website (if available):** <https://portdecotonou.bj>
3. **Country of Investment:** Benin
4. **Sector:** Water & infra
5. **Expected signing date (Date of the main transaction document):** 13 November 2026
6. **Total estimated financing:** EUR 90.6 mln of which EUR 17 mln Invest International Capital loan finance, and EUR 45.3 mln Invest International Public Programs grant.
7. **Source of Funding:** Invest International Capital B.V. & Invest International Public Programs B.V.
8. **Environmental & Social Risk Category (A, B, C):** A
9. **Project Description:**

Invest International is providing financing for the relocation and development of the artisanal fishing port in Cotonou, Benin. The total financing package amounts to an estimated EUR 90.6 million and comprises an estimated EUR 45.3 million grant and a EUR 45.3 million loan. Invest International Capital B.V. will provide EUR 17 million of the loan alongside a commercial bank.

The existing artisanal fishing port is located within Cotonou's commercial port and is managed by the Port Autonome de Cotonou. The facility is well beyond its economic life, contributing to inadequate working and living conditions for communities in and around the port. The fishing port will be relocated approximately 500 metres eastward to provide a safer and more spacious facility. Its relocation will also create space for the Port Autonome de Cotonou to further develop the commercial port, while supporting improved livelihoods for the women and men working in and around the fishing port.

The project is divided into two contracts: a EUR 55.2 million marine works contract to be executed by an established Dutch entity and a EUR 33.5 million land works contract to be executed by a local consortium comprising. The marine works include the construction of a new harbour basin, breakwaters and slipways, as well as dredging. The land works include a fish auction hall, market areas, cold-storage and ice-production facilities, and storage areas.

The new port is designed to accommodate approximately 400 artisanal fishing boats and 16 semi-industrial vessels. It is intended to improve safety, provide dedicated fisheries infrastructure and strengthen fish-handling and storage conditions. These improvements are

expected to support better product quality and the livelihoods of fishers, fish processors and traders operating in and around the port.

The investment has been classified as High ESG Risk (Category A) due to material risks comprising legacy resettlement issues, child-labour risks at the existing fishing port, livelihood risks affecting fishing communities, and the need to manage construction and operational risks in a densely populated coastal and urban environment. The project is subject to the IFC Performance Standards and an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP), which includes measures relating to environmental and social management, labour and occupational health and safety, stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanisms, livelihood restoration and enhancement, child-labour prevention and mitigation, pollution control, and sustainable fisheries management. Implementation of the ESAP will be subject to enhanced monitoring through regular reporting, site visits, and independent environmental and social supervision. Residual environmental and social risks are considered manageable to an acceptable level, provided that all agreed mitigation measures are implemented and maintained throughout construction and operation.

Impact/ target SDGs:

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

The project is expected to create around 300 temporary jobs during construction, prioritising local employment where possible. Long-term benefits include sustaining 1,808 active actors and indirectly generating approximately 8,000 jobs through local sourcing. Modernized facilities will improve working conditions and security for fisherfolk, processors, and traders.

SDG 13 – Climate Action

Emissions intensity will be monitored closely during construction. Options to reduce reliance on fossil fuels during construction and operations will be explored.

Other SDG contributions

The project contributes to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through improved sanitation, waste management and modern fisheries infrastructure, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by reducing post-harvest losses through improved cold storage, ice production and fish handling facilities, and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), indirectly by improving the quality, preservation and availability of fish products, thereby supporting food security and nutrition in Benin.