

# Kenya

## Sustainable Investment Requirements



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## About the paper

This is a national companion guide to the publication *The Business Guide for Sustainability in Foreign Investments*. The companion guide presents an overview of Kenya's environmental and social regulations for investment operations in agroprocessing and light manufacturing. It also provides contacts of relevant national ministries and enforcement bodies.

**Publisher:** International Trade Centre

**Title:** Kenya: Sustainable Investment Requirements

**Publication date and place:** Geneva, June 2021

**Page count:** 32

**Language:** English

**ITC Document Number:** SIVC-21-84.E

**Citation:** International Trade Centre (2021). *Kenya: Sustainable Investment Requirements*, ITC, Geneva, Switzerland

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## Foreword by ITC

Foreign investment in Kenya unlocks opportunities to reach new regional and global markets and better serve the local market. The actions taken by business managers have tremendous spillover effects, not only for the local economy, but for the social and environmental conditions of the local population. As part of the post-pandemic recovery, investing sustainably is essential.

National legislation, regional trade agreements, and market demand all trend towards increased consideration for social and environmental practices. Beyond the business case for sustainability, international firms and local business must be aware of the requirements in their country of operation in order to avoid repercussions and remain competitive.

This national companion guide provides the mandatory social and environmental requirements for investing in Kenya in agroprocessing and light manufacturing. The guide details the steps businesses must take in their investment journey and the respective agencies they will contact along the way. The recommendations as well as the tools, such as sustainability checklists and resource directories, provide practical support to investors in their journey to improve their business practices.

This is a companion guide to the publication *The Business Guide for Sustainability in Foreign Investments*, which makes the business case for sustainable investment and provides common sustainability practices that firms must consider when starting operations in a foreign country.

This guide is an outcome of the research conducted for the Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa, funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. It is based on insights of ministries, investors, businesses and experts at the International Trade Centre.

**Pamela Coke-Hamilton**  
Executive Director  
International Trade Centre

## Foreword by KenInvest

As an authority mandated to promote and facilitate investments in Kenya, the Kenya Investment Authority works to ensure that investors impart enduring and maximum positive impact on the global and local environment, community and economy, thus helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Foreign investment in Kenya has been rising in recent years and is expected to grow further.

This handbook on sustainable investment requirements in agroprocessing and light manufacturing, developed for foreign investors in Kenya, is therefore timely. It will guide them on how to do business responsibly and sustainably.

The guide sets out the legal requirements for environmental and labour laws in Kenya, and provides useful information on what to consider at each stage of the investment process in light manufacturing and agroprocessing – two of the most important sectors in the country. Investors should use this publication together with the handbook *The Business Guide for Sustainability in Foreign Investments*, which explains the basic concepts and business case for implementing sustainable and responsible investment practices.

We congratulate the International Trade Centre's Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa project for publishing this handbook, and commit our effort in its implementation. We urge investors, our partners and other stakeholders to use this guide as we continue to contribute to the process of Kenya's transformation.

**Moses Ikiara**  
Managing Director  
Kenya Investment Authority

## Acknowledgements

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is grateful to all parties involved in the development of this guide. Andreas Beavor was responsible for data collection and the initial drafting of the research. Ana Batalhone and Madison Wilcox (ITC) managed and prepared the final version of the guide, under the supervision of Joseph Wozniak (ITC). Ana Batalhone coordinated the development process.

Thanks are due to Véronique Rondeau and Ingrid Colonna for their leadership and various contributions to the guide development and revision under the guidance of Xuejun Jiang (all ITC). Anders Aeroe, Annegret Brauss, Delphine Clement, Joseph Wozniak, Tianyu Mao, Quan Zhao and Wenwen Sheng (all ITC) provided valuable comments and feedback. Alicia Rodriguez, Helen Griffin and Ha Vu provided valuable administrative support for the implementation of the guide.

Ana Batalhone, Madison Wilcox, Natalie Domeisen and Anne Griffin (all ITC) managed the editorial production of the companion guide. Jennifer Freedman edited the report, Franco Iacovino (ITC) provided graphic and layout services, and Serge Adeagbo (ITC) provided digital printing services.

ITC would like to express appreciation to the representatives of enterprises and institutions who agreed to be interviewed and share their experiences investing in the country. They include Reagan Awino, Pius Rotich (Kenya Investment Authority), Stephen Odua (Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives), Leah Nganga (Kenya Power) and Jiannan Bao (Jiangsu Province Chamber of Commerce in Kenya).

Thanks are due to James Musau (Kenya Investment Authority) for providing feedback. Special thanks go out to Hellen Rintari and Isaac Karani Muthamia, (ITC) for supporting data collection in Kenya and providing feedback for this guide.

This publication was produced under the Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA), a project implemented by ITC. PIGA is a part of Manufacturing Africa, a flagship programme of the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. PIGA is implemented in cooperation with the China Council for Promotion of International Trade and the China-Africa Development Fund, which were instrumental in gathering the data for this guide.

## About ITC

Established in 1964, the International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Its mission is to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development and contribute to achieving the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

ITC is the only development agency that is fully dedicated to supporting the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises. It helps these businesses in developing and transition economies become more competitive and connected to international markets for trade and investment, thus raising incomes and creating job opportunities, especially for women, young people and poor communities. ITC works with policymakers, trade and investment support institutions, exporters and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors to enable export success of small firms in developing countries and transition economies.

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## About the Partnership for Investment and Growth

The Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA) is part of Manufacturing Africa, a flagship programme of the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office facilitating foreign direct investment with high development impact into selected African countries.

Under Manufacturing Africa, PIGA aims to contribute to job creation and sustainable growth in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia by helping these countries attract foreign direct investment, specifically Chinese investment, in the agroprocessing and light manufacturing sectors. PIGA is also designed to enhance the capacity of these

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