Global Country Study Report Summary Report prepared by Institution

College code: 752
Country Selected: Benin
Total Students: 42
Total No of Group: 8

Study undertaken on by the students on the following titles

1. Political Environment of Benin
2. Economic Environment of Benin
3. Social Environment of Benin
4. Technological Environment of Benin
5. Environmental & Basic information of Benin
6. Legal environment of Benin
7. Overview of Major Industries
8. Overview of Financial Market
Country Profile

- **Official Name:**
  Republique du Bénin
  Short form: Bénin
  Long form: Republic of Benin
  Formerly known as: Dahomey

- **ISO Country Code:** bj

- **Time:**
  Local Time = UTC +1h Actual
  Time: Fri-Dec-28 05:52

- **Country Calling Code:** +229

- **Capital City:** Porto-Novo (pop. 295 000)

- **Political and economic capital:** Cotonou (pop. 2 million)

- **Other Cities:** Abomey, Gavié, Kandi, Ouidah

- **Government:**
  - Type: Republic under multiparty democratic rule.
  - Independence: 1 August 1960 (form France).

- **Geography:**
  - Location: Western Africa
  - Area: 112,622 km² (43,483 sq. mi.).
  - Terrain: Mostly flat plains of 200 meters average elevation, but the Atacora Mountains with the highest points being Mont Sokbaro 658 m, Mont Tanekas 641 m.

- **Climate:** Tropical, average temperatures between 24 and 31 C. Humid in south; semiarid in north.

- **People:**
  - **Nationality:** Beninese
  - **Population:** 9 million (2012)
  - **Ethnic groups:** 42 ethnic groups, most important being Fon, Adja, Yoruba, and Bariba.
  - **Religions:** Indigenous beliefs (animist) 50%, Christian 30%, Muslim 20%.
  - **Languages:** French (official), Fon and Yoruba in the south; Nagot, Bariba and Dendi in the north.
→ **Literacy**: Total population 39%; men 53%, women 25%.

→ **Natural resources**: Small offshore oil deposits, limestone, marble, timber.

→ **Agriculture products**: Cotton, corn, cassava (tapioca), yams, beans, palm oil, peanuts, livestock (2001)

→ **Industries**: Textiles, food processing, construction materials, cement (2001)

→ **Exports partners**: China 28.7%, India 18.4%, Ghana 6.3%, Thailand 6%, Niger 5.8%, Indonesia 4.2%, Nigeria 4.2% (2004)

→ **Imports partners**: China 32.2%, France 13%, Thailand 6.7%, Cote d'Ivoire 5.3% (2004)

→ **Currency**: CommunauteFinanciereAfricaine franc (XOF)
OVERVIEW OF BENIN

Benin, formerly known as Dahomey, is one of Africa's most stable democracies.

It boasts a proliferation of political parties and a strong civil society.

On the economic side, however, the picture is less bright - Benin is severely underdeveloped, and corruption is rife.

Benin's shore includes what used to be known as the Slave Coast, from where captives were shipped across the Atlantic. Elements of the culture and religion brought by slaves from the area are still present in the Americas, including voodoo.

Once banned in Benin, the religion is celebrated at the country's annual Voodoo Day, which draws thousands of celebrants.

Before being colonized by France towards the end of the 1800s, the area comprised several independent states, including the Kingdom of Dahomey, which had a well-trained standing army and was geared towards the export of slaves and later palm oil.

Instability marked the first years after full independence from France in 1960 and the early part of Mr Kerekou's rule featured Marxism-Leninism as the official ideology.

However, during the 1980s Mr Kerekou resigned from the army to become a civilian head of state and liberalised the economy.

While Benin has seen economic growth over the past few years and is one of Africa's largest cotton producers, it ranks among the world's poorest countries. The economy relies heavily on trade with its eastern neighbour, Nigeria.

To the north, there have been sporadic clashes along Benin's border with Burkina Faso. The trouble has been blamed on land disputes between rival communities on either side of the border.

Thousands of Togolese refugees fled to Benin in 2005 following political unrest in their homeland. Benin called for international aid to help it shelter and feed the exiles.
Executive summaries of PESTLE analysis of Benin
Country Report Prepared by the Students SEM III.

1. Political Environment of Benin

The Republic of Benin in West Africa has a population of 6,769,914. The country covers an area of 112,622 km², which includes a 670 km stretch of the Niger River. Its neighboring countries are Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east and Niger and Burkina Faso to the north. Porto Novo is the political capital, while Cotonou is the financial capital.

The 1990s were a fundamental period of Benin’s history in political terms. In fact, the “National Conference of Active Forces of the Nation”, which took place in Cotonou in February 1990, marked the beginning of the democratization and decentralization process.

The bureaucracy in Benin is formidable, by all accounts. In order to obtain extended visa, one needs the following documents in the following orders:

- Attestation de residence.
- Certificate de residence.
- Attestation de visit medical.
- Extracts de cashier judiciaries.

Prevue d’activités professionnelles etc. the list goes up to number 11. Without 1,2 is impossible to obtain, it is the proof required at the beginning of a long process. And for number 1, you need to apply to the chef de quartier. This person is the one who, in the past, would have been the village chief. Not elected, not appointed, not answerable to anyone, but with real authority. Anything that happens in quartier Avegodu of Dogbo - Tota, where we live, needs to have his approval. Always handy to be on the right end of his humor. Gerrit head already taken me on a courtesy call a week or so ago, you might remember, introducing me as le nouveau Pasteur. Gerrit was otherwise occupied today, and – amazingly, considering what it felt like a week ago – I had enough confidence o go do the necessaries without him.

Benin has undergone vast political and economic transformation over the past several years, yet economic reforms have proven more uneven than political transformation. Although the
basic institutional framework for a market economy has been increasingly strengthened the economy remains dominated by the informal sector. There is a lack of consensus as to the exact percentage of the workforce that is employed in this sector: estimates vary between 80% and 95% in any case, sources agreed that the informal continues to play an important role in Benin’s economy with both the productivity and trade of SMEs and individual labors operating in the informal sectors accounting for upwards of 50% of the country annual GDP.

Environmental law lawyers in Benin

- Anyray and partners

- Cotonou, Benin, Benin is a corporate advisory law firm that focuses its practices on corporate law, tax, finance, business reorganizations and corporate deals. The firm is guided by the principles of excellence and professionalism and has established a strong regional and international network in order to meet the need of its clients.

- Cabinet Maitre Akpabio Full service, Legal service in Benin republic.

- OTL Conseils

- OTL Conseils has recognized expertise in the development of environmental action plans and the drafting of community legislation in this field (for Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria)

**Freedom of the press in 2012 scores.**

- Press status partly free.

- Press freedom scores 34.

- Legal Environment 11.

- Political Environment 12.

- Economic Environment 11.

- Benin has traditionally been ranked among the best performing African countries from press freedom, with freedom of speech protected by the constitution and largely respected by the government. However, a number of disturbing trains have persisted
since the 2006 election of the current president Thomas Boni Yayi, who has used the
countries in 1997 press law criminalizing liable more liberally than his predecessor.

**Government type:** Republic

The Republic of Benin, a small country on the western coast of Africa, has been a multiparty
democratic republic since 1991. The country has not looked back since a popular uprising
effectively overthrew the corrupt military dictatorship two decades ago, the first such
overthrow in post-colonial Africa. President Thomas Yayi Boni heads the government of this
former French Colony.

Benin has long been a regional exemplar of stability with an absence of military in the streets,
a Parliament not in the pocket of the president and a relatively free press.

But in August 2010 that stability was rattled by a Ponzi scheme that has ended in disaster for
tens of thousands of families, wiping out savings, shaking the economy and threatening the
president in the nation of nine million.

Afrol news, 10 June- recently adopted legislation has relaxed restrictions on the right to strike
in Benin making the country one of Africa’s most progressive in terms of labour rights. However, seafarers are still excluded from Benin’s labor code.

For instance, while Benin’s economic growth is steady; it is largely dependent on the
agricultural sector and cotton exports, making it potential vulnerable to external shocks.
Economic progress is also weighed down by endemic corruption, a poor regulatory
framework and ageing infrastructure. At the same time, much of the economy is informal or
illicit. For instance, Benin is highly dependent on unofficial cross-border trade, particularly of
subsidized fuel from Nigeria. This illegal activity results in significant losses from
uncollected taxes and could lead to friction with neighboring countries. Attempts to overhaul
this sector and increase tax revenue would likely lead to a high risk of demonstrations which
could even threaten regime stability.

Taxable income – Income is taxed under 5 schedules: industrial and commercial profits; non-
commercial profits; employment income; income from moveable capital (investments); and
rental income. Taxable income from employment is widely interpreted and includes fringe
benefits, assessed aactualcost, or15%ofsalaryforaccommodation.
Capital gains – Individuals are exempt from capital gains on the disposal of shares. In other respects, the rules governing capital gains derive by companies apply.

Deductions and allowances – The first XOF 50,000 per month of employment income is exempt from tax. Tax also is reduced according to the number of dependent children.

Import

- APO/FPO addresses.
- COD shipments.
- Human corpse, human organ or body parts, human and animal embryos or cremated or disinterred human remain.
- Explosives (class 1.4 explosives are acceptable for carriage to Canada, Germany, France, Japan, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom).

Export

Acids, Batteries, Haz, Bearer Documents, Bio Products, Haz, Chemicals, Haz, Corrosives, Cosmetics, Haz, Dangerous goods as defined by IATA, Flammables,

Benin Tariff Rate

Tariff rate, applied, simple mean, manufactured products in Benin was 12.88 as of 2010. Its highest value over the past 9 years was 14.20 in 2005, while its lowest value was 12.88 in 2010.

**DEFINITION:** Simple mean applied tariff is the unweighted average of effectively applied rates for all products subject to tariff calculated for all traded goods. Manufactured products are commodities classified in site revision 3 sections 5-8 excluding division 68.
2. ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- The economy of Benin remains underdeveloped and dependent on subsistence agriculture, cotton production, and regional trade. Growth in real output had averaged almost 4% before the global recession but fell to 2.7% in 2009 and 2.6% in 2010. Inflation has subsided over the past several years. In order to raise growth, Benin plans to attract more foreign investment, place more emphasis on tourism, facilitate the development of new food processing systems and agricultural products, and encourage new information and communication technology. Specific projects to improve the business climate by reforms to the land tenure system, the commercial justice system, and the financial sector were included in Benin's $307 million Millennium Challenge Account grant signed in February 2006. The 2001 privatization policy continues in telecommunications, water, electricity, and agriculture.

- The Paris Club and bilateral creditors have eased the external debt situation with Benin benefiting from a G-8 debt reduction announced in July 2005, while pressing for more rapid structural reforms. An insufficient electrical supply continues to adversely affect Benin's economic growth though the government recently has taken steps to increase domestic power production. Private foreign direct investment is small, and foreign aid accounts for the majority of investment in infrastructure projects. Cotton, a key export, suffered from flooding in 2010-11, but high prices supported export earnings. The government agreed to 25% increase in civil servant salaries in 2011, following a series of strikes, has increased pressure on the national budget. Benin has appealed for international assistance to mitigate piracy against commercial shipping in its territory.

- Agriculture, which represents 35% of GDP, has been slow to modernize and diversify. To reduce poverty, the 70% of workers employed in agriculture would need to increase their income. The sector is dominated by cotton, which accounts for around 40% of exports, is plagued by organisational problems, unpredictable weather and outdated production equipment. Despite reforms in the sector, production is falling, with an average annual decline of 25% since 2007. A twenty-year low was reached in 2010. Food production, meanwhile, has increased thanks to the food-safety programme developed in response to the 2008 food crisis. Similarly, the performance of certain export crops, including cashew, has supported agriculture.
Final consumption (approximately 90% of GDP) was the main driver of growth in demand in 2011. It increased by 4.5% in 2011 against 2.5% in 2010, driven by household consumption and the rising wage bill in the civil service. Investment, meanwhile, grew from 21.0% of GDP in 2010 to 21.6% in 2011, with repairs to flood-damaged infrastructure, but remains below the average of 24.0% for Africa as a whole. Raising the level of investment, particularly private investment, is a major challenge for Benin in its efforts to diversify and boost the economy.

- These levels of growth will result from measures taken to increase the value added in agriculture and services. In agriculture, these measures will primarily involve the provision of specific inputs for food production, the development and promotion of the valleys, better sanitation in the cotton sector, improved storage conditions and agricultural mechanization. In the services sector, a private operator has been awarded a license to use two quays at the port, and a one-stop shop has been introduced to make the port more competitive. The opening of dry ports has also spurred growth by reducing congestion. The secondary sector should benefit from the recovery in the textile industry, which has been boosted by the cotton industry and greater private-sector involvement.
3. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF BENIN

Benin is a small country in West Africa with a coastline on the Bight of Benin. Neighboring countries include Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, and Togo. The geography of Benin is mostly flat with sandbanks that create access to the coast difficult. The government system is a republic; the chief of state and the head of government is the President. Officially, Benin has a mixed economic system however subsistence farming and underdeveloped industries are indicative of a traditional economy in which the allocation of available resources is based on inheritance and primitive methods. Benin is a member of the African Economic Community (AEC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The population of Benin in 2003 was estimated by the United Nations at 6,736,000, which placed it as number 96 in population among the 193 nations of the world. In that year approximately 3% of the population was over 65 years of age, with another 46% of the population under 15 years of age. There were 97 males for every 100 females in the country in 2003. According to the UN, the annual population growth rate for 2000–2005 is 2.65%, with the projected population for the year 2015 at 9,093,000. The population density in 2002 was 59 per sq km (152 per sq mi). Almost three-fourths of the population are clustered in the southern half of the country, where the density reaches more than 120 per sq km (290 per sq mi). This entry provides the distribution of the population according to age. Information is included by sex and age group (0-14 years, 15-64 years, 65 years and over). The age structure of a population affects a nation's key socioeconomic issues. Countries with young populations (high percentage under age 15) need to invest more in schools, while countries with older populations (high percentage ages 65 and over) need to invest more in the health sector. The age structure can also be used to help predict potential political issues. For example, the rapid growth of a young adult population unable to find employment can lead to unrest. Career counseling advisors assess people's interests, personality, values and skills, and also help them explore career options and research graduate and professional schools. Career counseling provides one-on-one or group professional assistance in exploration and decision making tasks related to choosing a major/occupation, transitioning into the world of work or further professional training. The field is vast and includes career placement, career planning, learning strategies and student development.
Changing employment patterns are the reflection of the structural relationships involved in the development process. They have to do as much with the emergence of new forms of livelihoods in communities as they have with the phasing out of pre-existing modes of production, occupations, or livelihoods. A variety of factors can induce changes in patterns of employment including economic, demographic, cultural, institutional and technological processes occurring at different levels within national, regional, as well as global dimensions. Identifying changes in patterns would therefore need to address changes, inter alia, in the structure of production, in the patterns of consumption, in the patterns of trade and in the globalization process.

By focusing attention on the structure of unemployment, the study also attempts to contribute to the emerging awareness regarding the linkages between unemployment and poverty in Africa, and to assist in the search for appropriate policy alternatives for the expansion of productive employment. It would be useful, for discussion on changing employment patterns around four dimensions of the concept, namely the demographic, economic, social, and spatial dimensions. Within the demographic dimension we include observed changes in the age and gender structure of the labor force. In the economic dimension we cover aspects of change in the patterns of employment as they relate to change in the structure of production of goods and services, change in the technology of production, change in the composition of output and, in general, change in the organization of economic activity. By the social dimension we refer to those aspects of changing patterns of employment that have to do with increasing in formalization of work, and changing conditions of work in general. The spatial dimension refers to changing patterns of employment as regards the allocation of work over space, and in particular, as they relate to urbanization and rural/urban migration.
4. TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

Throughout history, the development of new technology has been absolutely vital for both human survival and human progress. We as a species constantly come across situations where our alternatives are either adaptation or survival and one of the main tools with which we adapt to changing conditions is with the discovery and implementation of new technologies. Another reason we strive to create new technology is not only to eke out a meager existence but to improve our living conditions as much as possible. Technology is the primary vehicle through which humanity progresses and in the future, technology could serve to eliminate much of the biggest problems facing us as a species such as world hunger, poverty, lack of access to education and other issues.

2. Technology, Growth and Development

Technological change, productivity, economic growth and socio-economic development at the macro level. It focuses on a range of questions with respect to the impact of innovation and technological change on productivity, growth, employment, human capital, inequality, poverty, sustainability and socio-economic development. These questions are studied in an international comparative perspective including advanced economies in Europe and elsewhere, developing economies and economies in transition.

A key concept linking innovation and technology with growth and development is productivity. Technological change is one of the major forces resulting in improved productivity and growth of income per capita. Productivity growth implies enhanced productive capabilities, which can potentially be used to fulfil a variety of human needs and realise social goals in the context of economic development. Socio-economic development is a broader concept than economic growth. It includes aspects such as the degree of inequality within and between societies, the environmental sustainability of increased production, the creation of employment and the fulfillment of basic human needs.
Technology is a pool of technical knowledge. It is science or systematic knowledge of industrial art. There are four major roots of modern technology. These are the reorganization of labour, the use of machines in manufacturing, the exploitation of man-made material and application of new sources of energy. Economic development takes place even through a natural process. But the rate of such natural development is very slow. The economic development depends upon the rate of economy growth; itself is the result of greater productivity. In the process of production, the most important factor is technology. Technologies progress results from new and improved ways of accomplishing

Technology can be divided into three categories. These are neutral technology, capital saving and labor augmenting. Technology facilities the process of production in agriculture and industrial sectors. Production can be carried out with the help of old machines and techniques. But the use of new machines and techniques results in more output of a country leads to more volume of Gross Nominal Product. A continuous increase in the national income of a country may result in visible economic development. The use of modern technology effectively required to fulfill certain preconditions. There is a great reliance on technology to solve environmental problems around the world today, because of an almost universal reluctance by governments and those who advise them to make the social and political changes that would be necessary to reduce growth in production and consumption. Yet the sorts of technological changes that would be necessary to keep up with and counteract the growing environmental damage caused by increases in production and consumption would have to be fairly dramatic. The technological fixes of the past will not do. And the question remains, can such a dramatic and radical redesign of our technological systems occur without causing major social changes and will it occur without a rethinking of political priorities? Technology is not independent of society either in its shaping or its effects. At the heart of the debate over the potential effectiveness of sustainable development is the question of whether technological change, even if it can be achieved, can reduce the impact of economic development sufficiently to ensure other types of change will not be necessary. Sustainable development policies seek to change the nature of economic growth rather than limit it. They are premised on the belief that continual growth in a finite world is possible through the powers of technology, which will enable us to find new sources or provide alternatives if a particular resource appears to be running out. Otherwise, technology will help us use and reuse what we have left in the most efficient manner. The tools of sustainable development?economic instruments, legislative measures and consumer
pressures? Are aimed at achieving technological changes such as recycling, waste minimization, substitution of materials, changed production processes, pollution control and more efficient usage of resources.

5. Environment & Basic information of Benin

Benin is a country in West Africa. It is bordered by Togo to the west, by Nigeria to the east and by Burkina Faso and Niger to the north. A majority of the population live on its small southern coastline on the Bight of Benin, The capital of Benin is Porto-Novo but the seat of government is in Cotonou, the country's largest city. Benin covers an area of approximately 110,000 square kilometres (42,000 sq mi), with a population of approximately 9.05 million. Benin is a tropical, sub-Saharan nation, highly dependent on agriculture, with substantial employment and income arising from subsistence farming.

The official language of Benin is French. However, indigenous languages such as Fon and Yoruba are commonly spoken. The largest religious group in Benin is Roman Catholicism, followed closely by Islam, Vodun and Protestantism. Benin is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone, La Francophonie, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, the African Petroleum Producers Association and the Niger Basin Authority.

From the 17th to the 19th century, modern day Benin was ruled by the Kingdom of Dahomey. This region was referred to as the Slave Coast from as early as the 17th century due to the large number of slaves shipped to the New World during the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. After slavery was abolished, France took over the country and renamed it French Dahomey. In 1960, Dahomey gained full independence from France, bringing in a democratic government for the next 12 years.

A Marxist-Leninist state called the People's Republic of Benin existed between 1972 and 1990. Many sources state this regime led to repression and the collapse of the economy. The Republic of Benin was formed in 1991 which brought in multiparty elections.
Emergence of the Nation.

Although several ethnic groups are assumed to be indigenous, migration that began four hundred years ago brought Aja-speaking peoples (the Gbe) into the southern part of the country, where they founded several kingdoms. The Yoruba presence in the southern and central regions also dates back several hundred years. The Bariba migrated west from what is now Nigeria and established a cluster of states. In the northwest, Benin several indigenous groups remained independent of Bariba control. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to make contact at Ouidah (Whydah) in 1580s; Dutch, French, and English traders followed. The coastal communities became part of an emerging trans-Atlantic trading system.

In the seventeenth century, slaves became the most important commodity, traded for manufactured items. At first the trade took place with coastal kingdoms, but the interior kingdom of Dahomey later conquered those kingdoms. Although a tributary of the Yoruba kingdom Oyo from 1740 to 1818, Dahomey dominated the regional slave trade. Traders dealt directly with the royalty of Dahomey, who continued to sell slaves to Brazilian merchants after the 1830s. Merchants and travelers wrote about the power of the Dahomean monarch, his army of "amazons" (female warriors), and ceremonies that included human sacrifice.

The French presence and influence increased after 1840 as a result of commercial and missionary activity. Tension with France increased as competition between European imperial powers escalated. France engaged in three military campaigns against Dahomey, and in 1894 King Behanzin surrendered and was exiled. By 1900, the Bariba had been defeated and the new boundaries had been determined. From 1904 to 1958, Dahomey was a colony in the federation of French West Africa.

Colonial rule forced the people to accept a new system of central administration, heavy taxation, forced labor, and harsh laws. France conscripted men to fight in both world wars. By the end of World War II, the economy was weak and growing discontent was difficult to manage. After World War II, France followed a policy of increased representation and autonomy. During this period, a triumvirate of leaders emerged who would dominate national politics for decades. In 1958, Dahomey chose independence, which was declared in 1960. Hubert Maga was elected as the first president. His term was interrupted by a military coup in 1963, the first of six in the next nine years.
**National Identity.**

Political turmoil before and after independence was not conducive to the formation of a national identity. The Kérékou regime and the seventeen-year experiment with socialism stabilized the country under a central bureaucracy. In the early years of his rule, Kérékou's called for the creation of a nation less aligned with French commercial and cultural interests. After the government adopted a Marxist-Leninist ideology in 1974, a rhetoric of national unity and "the revolution" permeated the media and government propaganda, but even today national identity is secondary to ethnic identity for much of the rural population.

**Ethnic Relations.**

Beninese recognize about twenty socio cultural groups. In some cases, a cultural cluster is associated with one or more of the ancient kingdoms. The Fon (founders of the Dahomey kingdom) are the largest group. Their language is closely related to that of the Aja and Goun, and there are close ethnic ties with those groups as a result of shared precolonial history. Lines of cleavages create constantly changing northern, southern, and south-central coalitions of leaders who vie for control of limited resources and political power.

The Afro-Brazilian community in the south is descended from European traders, Africans who lived near European trading establishments, and traders and returned slaves from Brazil.

The educated peoples of the more urbanized southern region have dominated the nation's political and economic life. The teachers and civil servants who were given posts in the north were considered to be as foreign as the Europeans.

Benin is also home to Fulani herders known locally as the Peul. These herders move their livestock over long distances in search of grass. Even when they become sedentary, the Fulani maintain a unique cultural identity. Many of them serve in the military.
2. Basic information

Republic of Benin
President: YayiBoni (2006)
Prime Minister: Pascal Koupaki (2011)
Land area: 42,710 sq mi (110,619 sq km); total area: 43,483 sq mi (112,620 sq km)
Population (2012 est.): 8,598,787 (growth rate: 2.88%); birth rate: 37.55/1000; infant mortality rate: 60.03/1000; life expectancy: 60.26
Capital (2009 est.): Porto-Novo (official), 276,000; Largest city and seat of government: Cotonou 815,000 Monetary unit: CFA Franc

In Benin there is a range of things to do. Explore the legendary craftsmanship of Benin at the Centre for Artistic Promotion in Cotonou or go fishing at Grand Popo. Take a trip to Abomey for an interesting lesson in history, or visit Ouidah for some voodoo experience. Visit the national parks to get a glimpse of popular wildlife of Africa or head to Club de Benin for a game of tennis or YachtSelling.

The beaches at Grand Popo and Ouidah are good for just relaxing, sun bathing and water sports. Savour the mouth-watering seafood that is readily available in Benin or partake in the popular Voodoo festival known as the National Voodoo Day!

Festivals & Events in Benin
The Voodoo Festival popularly known as the National Voodoo Day is the major festival in Benin that attracts thousands of followers to Ouidah.

Shopping in Benin
There is not much scope for souvenir shopping in Benin. However there is a lively Grand Marche De Dantkpa in Cotonou sells that everything from jeans to pottery. While in the market, look at the fetish section with its assortment of potions, dried animal organs and other items that are used in traditional medicines and religions.
**Activities in Benin**

There are number of outdoor activities in Benin that you can enjoy here. Good swimmers can venture in for some water sports in Benin. Grand Popo and Ouidah beaches are good for relaxing, sunbathing and various water sports. Many hotels and resorts have their private swimming pools in the Cotonou, while tennis is available at the Club du Benin and sailing at the Yacht Club. A dug-out canoe or motorboat can be hired on Nakoue Lagoon have the facilities for hiring motor boats. The country also boasts of two wildlife parks, Pendjari and ‘W’, for wildlife enthusiasts.

**Festivals and Events in Benin**

The Voodoo Festival popularly has known as the National Voodoo Day is the major festival in Benin that attracts thousands of followers to Ouidah. The festival is held in January every year at a beach and people in colorful local dress dance, drum and pray while animals are slaughtered in rituals.

**People and Society of Benin**

Benin’s 5.5 million people come from as many as 42 different ethnic groups. Intermarriage between the groups makes it difficult to trace each one’s origin. However, they are all of African descent and can be divided into five broad clusters: the Voltaic, the Sudanese, the Fulani, the Ewe and the Yoruba. The foreign community is mostly of French origin. The four largest tribes are the Fon, the Adja, the Bariba and the Yoruba.
6. **Legal Environment Of Benin**

What is Consumer Rights Law?

This legal area encompasses a large body of laws enacted by the government to protect consumers by regulating many of the following business transactions and practices: advertising, sales and business practices; product branding; mail fraud; sound banking and truth in lending; quality produce and meats; housing material and other product standards; and all manner of other types of consumer transactions. Some states also regulate door-to-door sales, abusive collection practices and referral and promotional sales.

These laws have been created on both the state and federal level. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) was originally established to prevent unfair methods of competition in commerce, but after 1938 its scope grew to include consumer protection law oversight as well. Most states have established some type of consumer protection agency.

There are various Federal Acts that address different aspects of consumer protection. The Consumer Credit Protection Act (CCPA), also referred to as the federal Truth in Lending Act, regulates the credit industry with respect to consumer rights, which includes credit card companies and credit reporting agencies, as well as loan sharks and wage garnishment. The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) regulates credit reporting agencies and those who use them. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act was added to the CCPA in 1978 to abolish abusive collection practices and give consumers a means to dispute inaccurate debt information. The Fair Credit Billing Act was added to the CCPA in 1975 to deal with billing practices in credit accounts. The Magnuson-Moss Act of 1973 deals with standards for product warranties, both implied and express. And to address the growing crime of identity theft, Congress enacted the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, which was signed into law in 1998.
Health & Safety Law in Benin Country

During the 1980s, less than 30% of the population had access to primary health care services. Benin had one of the highest death rates for children under the age of five in the world. Its infant mortality rate stood at deaths for every 1000 live births. Only one in three mothers had access to child health care services. The Bamako Initiative changed that dramatically by introducing community-based health care reform, resulting in more efficient and equitable provision of services. A comprehensive approach strategy was extended to all areas of health care, with subsequent improvement in the health care indicators and improvement in health care efficiency and cost. Demographic and Health Surveys has completed three surveys in Benin since 1996.

Benin - Judicial system

The legal system in Benin was formerly based on French and customary law. However, on 4 September 1981, Kérékou announced the creation of people's courts presided over by a Central People's Court which would control all judicial activities under the supervision of the executive and legislature. Each district has a court with the power to try cases, and each province has a court that acts as an appeals and assizes court. At the lowest level, each commune, village, and city ward has its own court.

The 1990 constitution provided for establishment of a new Constitutional Court responsible for judicial review of the constitutionality of legislation and for deciding disputes between the president and the National Assembly. This court began functioning in 1993. The constitution also established a High Court of Justice to be responsible for hearing charges of crimes against the nation committed by the president or other government officials. The highest court for non-constitutional judicial review under the new constitution is the Supreme Court. Under the constitution, detainees must be brought before a magistrate within 48 hours of arrest. The judiciary is independent and the government generally respects this constitutional provision in practice. The constitution provides for the right to a fair public trial. Criminal defendants enjoy the presumption of innocence, the right to counsel, and the rights to confront witnesses and have access to government-held evidence. The members of the military may be tried in case of minor offenses at military disciplinary councils. These councils have no power to try civilians. The constitution prohibits arbitrary interference with
privacy, family, home, and correspondence. The government respects these provisions. Police need a judicial warrant before entering a private home. Although these basic procedural rights are respected, the judiciary in Benin is curtailed by executive powers, inefficient, and susceptible to corruption at all levels.

**Anti-corruption snapshot**

Benin has undergone vast political and economic transformations over the past several years. However, economic reforms have occurred more unevenly than political transformation. Although the basic institutional framework for a market economy has been increasingly strengthened and Benin is considered one of the most stable democracies in Africa, the economy remains dominated by the informal sector. The government's commitment to combat corruption and to attract investment has resulted in a number of laws, regulations and measures to improve the business climate, although several obstacles to attracting foreign investors remain. The most important obstacle, according to many observers, is the widespread corruption in the country, both petty (facilitation payments and small bribes) and grand (government, contracts).

**Public initiatives**

- **Legislation**: Benin ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in October 2004. Benin lacks specific corruption legislation; however, corruption is criminalized in Beninese legislation by Articles 166 to 183 of the **Criminal Code**, in the **Criminal Procedures Code** and in Articles 18, 19, 35 and 37 of the Beninese Constitution (in French). The following are considered offences: attempted corruption, extortion, active and passive bribery, bribing a foreign official, using public resources for private gain, using confidential state information for private gain and money laundering. Access the Lexadin World Law Guide for a collection of legislation in Benin (in French).

1. **Government Strategies**: President YayiBoni has made the fight against corruption the cornerstone of his administration. Various initiatives have been adopted, such as a law creating an official code of conduct for governmental management and the establishment of the **General Inspection of the Government** in 2006. A minister and
a politician have been indicted and 27 judges have been charged for misappropriation of court fees. In 2007, President YayiBoni ordered an audit of 60 state-run companies and also an investigation of Beninese embassies abroad. Benin's anti-corruption strategy is seen as successful by many international observers.

1. **Anti-Corruption Agency:** The Observatoire de lutte contre la corruption (OLC, in French) is the legal agency with the mandate to address corruption and it has jurisdiction to intervene wherever corruption is observed. The agency includes representatives of the state, civil society and the private sector. It was established in 2004 and has legal authority as well as financial and functional autonomy. According to Global Integrity 2006, the agency is effective and professional and it is protected from political interference. However, critics are worried, that the OLC's independence might be limited by lack of financial resources and understaffing (read more in the World Bank Observatory for the Fight against Corruption report).

2. National Union of Magistrates (Union Nationale des Magistrats du Benin, UNAMAB, in French) monitors the independence of the judiciary.

3. Office of the Ombudsman (in French): The Ombudsman (Mediateur du Benin) was established in February 2006. The Ombudsman is an independent authority and handles complaints from citizens against the public administration. The head of the Ombudsman's Office is appointed for five years and cannot be removed.

4. **Auditor-General:** The General Inspection of the Government (l'Inspection Generale de l'Etat, IGE) was created in 2006 and succeeded the former Cellule de Moralisation de la Vie Publique (in French). It is the supreme audit institution. The IGE is a state body that coordinates the other inspection and monitoring bodies. Its mission is to investigate and monitor public services, bodies and offices.
- **Public Procurement:** Procurement procedures are regulated by the Code of Ethics of the Public Procurement Act (in French), but Beninese procurement law is generally assessed to be weak. The government has created a Public Procurement Verification Commission, which also includes a number of civil society watchdog organizations, such as FONAC (see 'Private Anti-Corruption Initiatives' in the Initiatives section). Despite attempts by politicians to circumvent the commission's decisions in procurement cases, the commission has resisted such political pressure.

- **Whistle Blowing:** According to Global Integrity 2006, public and private sector employees reporting cases of corruption have no legal or practical protection from recrimination or other kind of negative consequence.

- **General Comments on the Public Anti-Corruption Initiatives:** Benin's legislative framework criminalizes corruption and guarantees an independent judiciary. However, in general, corruption laws in Benin are outdated and many of them are not applied in practice. The institutional set-up for fighting corruption is quite well-established, but these institutions are themselves frequently criticized for being politicized and subject to corruption. This is true for the judiciary and the police and for numerous other political-administrative structures.

**Private initiatives**

- **Media:** Freedom of speech and of the press is protected by the constitution, and many observers note that state and private media operate relatively freely in Benin. However, according to the US Department of State 2009, the media effect on public opinion is limited due to restricted circulation and illiteracy. The government has a reputation for respecting freedom of the press, and the media is renowned for scrutinising both the government and the opposition. Nevertheless, the past several years have brought about some worrying developments, according to Reporters Without Borders 2009 and Freedom House 2009, as the market has been filled with politically funded publications and the government decided to apply a law that had
not been strictly applied for a couple of years, imposing prison sentences for press offences. As a result, several journalists were imprisoned. Furthermore, reporters are reportedly susceptible to bribery and blackmail. It is therefore not uncommon for politicians to buy positive stories from journalists. According to Freedom House 2008, the government does not restrict access to the Internet, but poverty hinders the wider population from benefiting from it. Reporters without Borders 2009 ranks Benin 72nd out of 175 countries, while Freedom House 2009 ranks Benin 71st out of 195 countries and describes its press environment is 'partly free'.

- Civil Society: Freedom of association and assembly are provided for in the constitution and those rights are generally respected. Non-governmental organizations are numerous in Benin and are generally free to act without governmental intervention. However, according to the Bertelsmann Foundation 2010, the lack of resources and the poor institutionalization of those organizations impede a more continuous participation.

- Front des Organisations Nationales Anti-Corruption (FONAC): FONAC is a national coalition of around 60 non-governmental organisations and associations that work with anti-corruption. FONAC works primarily with awareness-raising, investigation and calling attention to corrupt politicians. The coalition is represented in the most prominent public anti-corruption institutions and initiatives (e.g. the Public Procurement Verification Commission) and their work is regarded as successful and influential by international actors, such as USAID and the World Bank.

- Association de Lutte Contre le Racisme, l'Ethnocentrisme et le Regional (ALCRER): ALCRER is a grassroots organisation created in 1994 whose primary goal is to promote good governance in the management of public affairs, combat racism, ethnocentrism and regionalism and protect human rights in Benin and Africa in general. It focuses on awareness-raising during elections and youth education.

- African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption Benin (APNAC): APNAC is active in capacity-building, information campaigns, promotion of anti-corruption legislation, and establishing a legal framework to promote free elections.
Board of Private Investors in Benin (CIPB): CIPB was founded in 2002 by a group of entrepreneurs. Today it is comprised of around forty companies with significant investments in Benin, that have decided to synergise their experiences, competences and economic weight to influence in a concerted manner, the environment in which they operate, working for the promotion of good governance. CIPB works in relation with anti-corruption and provides/produces corruption related information for companies, and it also works together with the UNDP, IMF, World Bank, European Commission and diplomatic missions of major donor countries.

7. Financial Market Of Benin

Financial institutions in Benin have been operating within a relatively stable macroeconomic environment but small economy. The average financial deepening ratio in Benin of 32 percent, though higher than the African average, remains still low compared to the size of the economy. Credit to the economy by commercial banks is very low in Benin and only 7 percent of the active population has a bank account. Commercial banks offer a limited range of products and services to only more established clients while a large number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) lack access to financial services.

While microfinance institutions (MFIs) have made a lot of progress and been relatively successful in providing financial services to the rural poor and micro entrepreneurs in Benin, they only manage to cover about 15 percent of the active population. That still leaves a large part of the population in Benin who has no access to basic financial services. The lack of basic infrastructure makes it difficult and prohibitively expensive for microfinance institutions to start a program in poor and isolated areas where people lack access to financial institutions. Nonetheless, MFIs in Benin could extend their services to a greater number of people and deepen their outreach by adapting and diversifying their financial products and services to serve poorer communities.

In the insurance sector, both density and penetration ratios for insurance companies in Benin remain very low. Very few people in Benin hold a life or non-life insurance policy compared to other African countries. While the lack of insurance culture offers an explanation for the low penetration ratios, there a good potential for further expansion of the insurance sector in
Benin. The development and marketing of products that are better adapted to the demands of the majority of the population and especially low-income households such as health, credit, and agricultural insurance offer the best chances of success.

Pension schemes in Benin have not been useful vehicle for providing so much needed term financing. The planned restructuring of the system should help address concerns over fiscal implications of its bad financial performance among other things. In the long run, a reformed pension system in Benin has the potential to accumulate and make available vast amounts of long-term financial resources to the financial system. The lack of access to financial services by the majority of the population in Benin was the main issue revealed by the study. The study explored the view among financial institutions and banks that the lack of credit to the majority and to SMEs in particular was due to a judicial system that is slow, inefficient, arbitrary, and nontransparent. Weaknesses in the legal and judicial framework governing enforceability of commercial contracts and property rights, collateral, and land and real estate registration were cited by bankers as major obstacles to the development of greater access to credit.

The study found that several obstacles have indeed to be overcome in order to satisfactorily address the issue of the lack of access to finance by the majority of the population in Benin. They include not only judicial and enforcement issues as well as contractual rights but also legal and regulatory barriers, deficiencies in the credit information and asset registry systems, absence of financial statements for enterprises, and inefficient retail payment and transfer systems. Although a number of issues and identified obstacles can only be addressed through appropriate regional channels, several actions can also be undertaken by either the Government of Benin or financial institutions themselves to foster better access to financial services.
8. **Overview Of Major Industries**

Benin, a narrow, north-south strip of land in West Africa, lies between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer. Benin's latitude ranges from 6o30N to 12o30N and its longitude from 10E to 3o40E. Benin is bounded by Togo to the west, Burkina Faso and Niger to the north, Nigeria to the east, and the Bight of Benin to the south. With an area of 112,622 square kilometres, roughly the size of Pennsylvania, Benin extends from the Niger River in the north to the Atlantic Ocean in the south, a distance of 700 kilometres (about 500 mi.). Although the coastline measures 121 kilometres (about 80 mi.), the country measures about 325 kilometres (about 215 mi.) at its widest point. It is one of the smaller countries in West Africa: eight times smaller than Nigeria, its neighbor to the east. It is, however, twice as large as Togo, its neighbor to the west. A relief map of Benin shows that it has little variation in elevation (average elevation 200 meters).

The country can be divided into four main areas from the south to the north. The low-lying, sandy, coastal plain (highest elevation 10 meters) is, at most, 10 kilometers wide. It is marshy and dotted with lakes and lagoons communicating with the ocean. The plateaus of southern Benin (altitude between 20 meters and 200 meters) are split by valleys running north to south along the Couffo, Zou, and Oueme Rivers. An area of flat lands dotted with rocky hills whose altitude seldom reaches 400 meters extends around Nikki and Save. Finally, a range of mountains extends along the northwest border and into Togo; this is the Atacora, with the highest point, Mont Sokbaro, at 658 meters. Two types of landscape predominate in the south. Benin has fields of lying fallow, mangroves, and remnants of large sacred forests. In the rest of the country, the savanna is covered with thorny scrubs and dotted with huge baobab trees. Some forests line the banks of rivers. In the north and the northwest of Benin the Reserve du W du Niger and Pendjari National Park attract tourists eager to see elephants, lions, antelopes, hippos, and monkeys.

Benin's climate is hot and humid. Annual rainfall in the coastal area averages 36 cm. (14 in.), not particularly high for coastal West Africa. Benin has two rainy and two dry seasons. The principal rainy season is from April to late July, with a shorter less intense rainy period from late September to November. The main dry season is from December to April,
with a short cooler dry season from late July to early September. Temperatures and humidity are high along the tropical coast. In Cotonou, the average maximum temperature is 31°C (89°F); the minimum is 24°C (75°F).

Variations in temperature increase when moving north through a savanna and plateau toward the Sahel. A dry wind from the Sahara called the Harmattan blows from December to March. Grass dries up, the vegetation turns reddish brown, and a veil of fine dust hangs over the country, causing the skies to be overcast. It also is the season when farmers burn brush in the fields.

In these projects, we are focused on the major industries working for the economic development of the economy and provide a brief detail about the industry analysis as well as the taxes, quotas, subsidies, and licensing made by the Benin government.

The project is mainly divided into seven parts and they are:

I. Background of the Benin
II. Agricultural activities of the Benin
III. Trade restrictions of the Benin
IV. Transportation system of the Benin
V. Export and Import Industry of the Benin
VI. Principal Industries of the Benin and companies under each industry
VII. GDP and Economic Information of the Benin

1. Background of the Benin:

This part of the project briefly explain the overall detail about the Benin and provide necessary information like population of the country, culture of the country, current position of the country and all the information which provides the background of the country and helpful to identify that whether the country is developing or developed.
2. Agricultural activities of the Benin:

Benin is predominantly an agricultural country. About 55% of the economically active population was engaged in the agricultural sector in 2000, which accounted for 38% of GDP that year. Small, independent farmers produce 90% of agricultural output, but only about 17% of the total area is cultivated, much of it in the form of collective farms since 1975. The agricultural sector is plagued by a lack of infrastructure, poor utilization of rural credit, and inefficient and insufficient use of fertilizer, insecticides, and seeds. Smuggling of crops for export or the domestic black market results in understating of crop figures. An estimated 20% of output is informally traded with Nigeria. The main food crops are manioc, yams, corn, sorghum, beans, rice, sweet potatoes, pawpaws, guavas, bananas, and coconuts. Production estimates for the main food crops for 1999 were yams, 1,771,000 tons; manioc, 2,377,000 tons; corn, 823,000 tons; sorghum, 154,000 tons; rice, 36,000 tons; dry beans, 94,000 tons; sweet potatoes, 67,000 tons; and millet, 34,000 tons. Benin is self-sufficient in food crops, given favorable weather conditions.

Palm products were long Benin's principal export crop, but in recent years cotton has increased in importance, with production increasing tenfold since 1981. Despite improved production, however, cotton storage and ginning capacity are still insufficient. Production of most cash crops fell between the 1970s and 1980s because of drought and state mismanagement. Cotton is grown on some 175,000 hectares (432,400 acres), and the crop is managed by the National Agricultural Society for Cotton. Cotton production was 175,000 tons in 1999, up from 76,000 tons in 1991. Peanut production has also recently become important; in 1999, 121,000 tons of shelled groundnuts were produced from 145,000 hectares (359,000 acres). These statistics are distorted by the smuggling of cash crops to and from Nigeria, depending on which country's prices are more attractive. Some 400,000 hectares (990,000 acres) of natural palms are exploited, and there are 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) of palm plantations, the largest of which is managed by SOBEPALH, a government enterprise producing palm oil and cottonseed oil. Palm oil production was 10,000 tons in 1999 and palm kernel output was 14,000 tons. Other crops with their 1999 production figures were cashews, 10,000 tons; bananas, 13,000 tons; mangoes, 12,000 tons; and coconuts, 20,000 tons.
3. Trade restrictions of the Benin:

A. Customs Duties (CD):
Under the WAEMU’s Common External Tariff (CET), by 2000 internal tariffs were eliminated and external tariffs harmonized to a structure with only four possible rates:

- **Category I**: 0 percent: Social and cultural necessities (medicines, educational materials).
- **Category II**: 5 percent: Primary inputs and capital goods.
- **Category III**: 10 percent: Inputs and intermediate products.
- **Category IV**: 20 percent: Final consumer goods.

The distinction between categories II and III is based primarily on the degree of input processing and how essential they are, with different rates applying to different goods within the same product groups according to these criteria. This distinction opens doors for continued discussions and conflict for reclassification of goods from one category to another. Consolidation of category II and III should be explored at the regional level in the context of WAEMU trade policy to move progressively towards greater uniformity in rates and product categories. Such a move would significantly help harmonize effective protection and improve customs administration.

B. Other taxes levied on imports.
The value added tax (VAT), introduced in 1991, and harmonized among WAEMU member countries (see Chapter 6), applies to imported goods at a flat 18 percent rate on most products, with some exemptions. There are also special excise taxes on a few products such as cigarettes (15 percent), alcohol and sparkling beverages (20 percent), other drinks (10 percent), cosmetics (10 percent), and on a few other products at much lower rates. In addition, as provided for under a 2001 WAEMU statute, all imports are subject to a prepayment profits tax (accomptesurl’impostsur les benefices—AIB), which is in principle reimbursable once a company has demonstrated that it is not subject to the business profits tax. The purpose is to ensure that the informal sector pays at least a modicum of taxes. In practice, however, rebates are subject to long delays, leading to substantial creditor positions for some companies.
C. Quotas:

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<th>Effective Date</th>
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<td>13,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30, 1978</td>
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<td>December 01, 1992</td>
<td>45,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 08, 1999</td>
<td>61,900</td>
</tr>
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</table>

D. Licensing & Royalty:

Royalty and license fees, payments (BoP, current US$):

Definition: Royalty and license fees are payments and receipts between residents and non residents for the authorized use of intangible, non produced, nonfinancial assets and proprietary rights (such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial processes, and franchises) and for the use, through licensing agreements, of produced originals of prototypes (such as films and manuscripts). Data are in current U.S. dollars.

The latest value for Royalty and license fees, payments (BoP, current US$) in Benin was $2,981,874 as of 2009. Over the past 26 years, the value for this indicator has fluctuated between $2,981,874 in 2009 and $34,115 in 1983.
4. Transportation system of the Benin:

In 2002, Benin had 578 km (359 mi) of narrow-gauge railroad. The Benin-Niger Joint Railway and Transport Organization, a public corporation, operates the passenger and freight railroad. The main line runs north from Cotonou to Parakou, with a branch to Segboroué in the west. The eastern line runs from Cotonou to Porto-Novo and Pobé.

Of Benin's 6,787 km (4,217 mi) of roads (excluding tracks), in 2002 only about 1,357 km (843 mi) are paved. The major roads are the coastal highway linking Benin with Lagos in Nigeria and Lomé in Togo; the road from Cotonou to Parakou (terminus of the railroad) and its extension via Kandi to Malanville on the Niger River; and the road north from Tchaourou that links Benin with Burkina Faso. In 2000, Benin had about 103,400 passenger cars and 96,600 commercial vehicles.

In 2001, there were five airports, one of which has a paved runway, Cadjehoun Airport. Located at Cotonou, Cadjehoun Airport, has direct international jet service to Accra, Niamey, Monrovia, Lagos, Ouagadougou, Lomé, and Douala, as well as connections to other West African cities. Direct services also link Cotonou to Paris. International airlines include UTA and Air Afrique. There is a major airport at Parakou, and airfields of lesser importance at Natitingou, Kandi, and Abomey. Transports Aériens du Bénin (TAB), offering domestic services to Parakou, Natitingou, Djougou, Savé, and Kandi, and abroad to Lagos, Lomé, Ouagadougou, and Niamey, was founded in 1978. Benin also has a share in Air Afrique. In 2001, 46,400 passengers flew on domestic and international flights.

5. Export and Import Industry of the Benin:

Major Imports and Exports:

According to the International Trade Centre, the top five export categories for Benin in 2008, along with percentage of total exports, were:

1. Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (28.4%)
2. Cotton (24.4%)
3. Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, and melons (12.5%)
4. Iron and steel (7.8%)
5. Copper and articles thereof (7%)

According to the International Trade Centre, the top five import categories for Benin in 2008, along with percentage of total imports, were:
1. Cotton (18%)
2. Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (10.7%)
3. Cereals (8.3%)
4. Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products, etc. (7.3%)
5. Electrical and electronic equipment (6.2%)

Major Trading Partners
The top three countries to which Benin exports merchandise, along with percentage of exports, are:
1. China (24%)
2. European Union (10.8%)
3. Nigeria (8.7%)

The top three countries which import merchandise to Benin, along with percentage of imports, are:
1. European Union (36.6%)
2. China (8.5%)
3. Cote d’Ivoire (6.9%)

6. Principal Industries of the Benin and companies under each industry:

There are main 19 industries in the Benin and they are briefly discussed as follow;
1. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
2. Automotive
3. Chemicals
4. Computers and Communications
5. Electrical Power
6. Equipment
7. Financial Services
8. Food, Beverages and Tobacco
9. Manufacturing
10. Mining
11. Oil and Gas
12. Professional Services
13. Public Utilities
14. Real Estate
15. Textiles and Clothing
16. Trading
17. Transport and Storage
18. Travel, Tourism and Recreation
19. Wholesale and Retail
7. GDP and Economic information of the Benin:

- 0.9

- 24 Years (Male): 1.1%

- 24 Years (Female): 0.6%
Part II Executive Summary

Semester IV
College code: 752

Country Selected: Benin

Total Students: 42

Total No of Group: 8

Study undertaken on by the students on the following titles

1. Oil & Gas Industry of Benin
2. Telecommunication Industry of Benin
3. Tourism Industry of Benin
4. Cotton Industry of Benin
5. Textile Industry of Benin
6. Cashew nut & Dry Fruit Industry of Benin
7. Health Service Industry of Benin
8. Transportation Industry of Benin
1. Oil & Gas Industry of Benin

The upstream oil industry is of potential importance to the Benin economy. The Sémè oil field off Cotonou came on line in 1982 with a production of 8,000 bpd from two wells. Production tapered off to an average of 1,900 bpd in 1996. The oil field was officially shut in December 1998. In 1999 Zetah Oil Company was awarded a license to redevelop the Sémè oilfield. The Sémè gas reserves are estimated at 80 billion cubic feet.

The downstream oil industry is dependent on refined petroleum products imported from neighboring Nigeria. Oil-derived products supply the large majority of the country's commercial energy needs. In 1995 the oil market was liberalized. A new storage terminal in the port of Cotonou was opened in late 1999.

Benin is one of the counties involved in the planned West African gas pipeline running from Nigeria to Cote d'Ivoire.

Mineral resource ownership in Benin is vested in the state, which grants exclusive rights for exploration and development through the Ministère des Mines, de l'Energie, et de l'Hydraulique. The Benin Mining Code (Act No.83-003 of May 1983) is regulated by Decree 89-296, and Act No. 83-004 addresses fiscal policy that affects mineral development.

Energy is an essential factor for a country's development. Countries with access to numerous and abundant energy sources usually have noticeably higher per capita GDP, have higher per capita income levels and greater life expectancy, etc., than those that lack such access to energy services. Without energy it is impossible to increase a country's productivity, to give impetus to its development, reduce poverty or achieve developmental Goals.

In Benin, as in most poor countries, biomass (firewood and charcoal) remains the dominant source of energy, followed by petroleum products and, to a lesser degree, electricity. Severe fluctuations in fossil fuel prices compromise domestic capacity to develop energy access, whereas the fuels used contribute to climate change. Benin remains vulnerable in the face of climatic changes that will modify trends and disrupt patterns of agriculture. However, the country has a huge and untapped energy potential. Sustainable access to energy will be possible if this is developed by combining policies and practices that address the issue of climate change.
Since Benin ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the country has begun to incorporate climate change concerns into its development objectives.

A key concern regarding the governance of oil and gas resources is that the governments of Benin oil- and gas-producing country receive an inadequate share of the large rents from production. This may stem from a number of reasons, including contracts and regimes that are not designed to extract maximum rents; and oil and gas policies that are designed primarily to promote and attract investments and have not evolved with changing global dynamics and national interests.

The sustainable development of oil and gas resources requires policies, principles, and practices that support the utilization of resources in a manner that does not prevent future generations from benefiting from the resources. A great challenge, particularly for oil-producing Benin country, is to ensure sufficient, reliable, and environmentally responsible supplies of oil, at prices that reflect market fundamentals. To achieve this important goal, several challenges have to be addressed, including high and volatile oil prices; growing external and internal demand for oil; increasing import dependence of Benin country; and, most importantly, sustainable management of the country's oil and gas resources for the benefit of all. The regional nature of these challenges and the growing interdependence between net importing and net exporting Benin country require a strengthened partnership among all stakeholders to enhance regional energy security. The sustainable management of oil and gas also faces the challenge that large natural resource revenues tend to replace more stable and sustainable revenue streams, exacerbating existing problems related to development, transparency, and accountability. This tends to free natural resource-exporting governments from the types of citizen demands for fiscal transparency, and accountability that arise when people pay taxes directly to the government. Thus, natural resource exports earnings actually sever important links between the people and their governments — link that are related to popular interests and control mechanisms. Governance indicators such as government effectiveness, voice and accountability, political instability and violence, the rule of law, regulatory quality, and control of corruption are correspondingly markedly weaker in oil-rich Benin country. Despite the challenges and issues involved, an oil and gas resource boom can, under the right circumstances, be an important catalyst for growth and development. The often-referred-to —natural resourcecurse‖ can be
avoided with the right institutions and policies. Benin have demonstrated this and there is some reason for cautious optimism that country have learned hard lessons from past resource booms, and, in future, will pursue strategies and policies that will allow Benin to fully reap the benefits of its natural resource wealth.

Oil and gas resources are a principal source of public revenues and national wealth for the governments of net oil-exporting country. As a major source of wealth and energy in Benin, oil and gas resources are critical for growth, development, and good governance. They also pose major management challenges for Benin governments. The issues go beyond technical management of oil and gas resources and collection of revenues. Resource control, governance, transparency in the utilization of resource wealth for development, preserving and optimizing the resource base, environmental protection, and securing, equitable and intergenerational long term benefits (especially poverty reduction) are among the many critical ingredients that should be embedded in any coherent strategy aimed at harnessing oil and gas resource wealth.

In other words, achieving sustained growth from oil and gas resources entails managing and enhancing the status of a complex portfolio of natural, human, and social capital.
2. Telecommunication Industry of Benin

The lack of affordable access to relevant information and knowledge services among the rural poor has been a concern to development economists for some time. Traditionally, information is regarded by economists as a critical element in the efficient functioning of markets. For example, the first fundamental theorem of welfare economics (i.e., competitive equilibrium are Pareto efficient) and the law of one price (i.e., the price of a good should not differ between any two markets by more than the transport cost between them) are based on the assumption that economic agents have the necessary information (Jensen 2007). Moreover, access to information is essential for the emergence of global information and knowledge based economy and has the ability to empower poor communities, enhance skills, and link various institutions involved in poverty reduction. Despite this being widely recognized, access to information has been limited in reality and very few empirical studies exist which assess the impact of investments aimed at providing access to information.

Despite the increasing rural demand for relevant and timely information and market knowledge and recent advances in information and communication technologies (i.e., their declining costs and increasing speed, efficiency and user-friendliness) that opened a wide range of opportunities to meet this demand and to improve the livelihoods of rural poor, the benefits from ICT investments have been unevenly distributed between and within countries resulting in what has become to be widely known as the digital divide and information poverty. Most of the beneficiaries of the ICT revolution have been those with resources and skills leaving out the majority of the rural poor.

Given the unprecedented growth of affordability and coverage of mobile telephony services and its increasing importance as a means of two way communication, the scope of this paper is limited to the role of mobile telephony in sustainable rural poverty reduction in developing countries.

Telecommunications is the science of communicating over a long distance using telephone or radio technology. This involves using microelectronic (small semiconductor chip), computer, and PC technologies to transmit, receive, and switch voice, data, and video communications over different transmission media, including copper, fiber, and electromagnetic transmissions. This definition implies that we are doing more than just voice communications.
Further, it does not imply using analog transmission exclusively. Many forms of analog and digital transmission are employed in telecommunications today. Analog communication is like a dimmer switch for light because it has an almost unlimited number of brightness settings. In contrast, digital communication works like a simple light switch that has only on or off. When people use the word—telecommunications,‖ most think of the classical analog telephone. That is telephony. Telephony is focused on voice communications. Telecommunications has evolved into much more. The telephone network was originally designed to carry human voice and not digital information such as data, music, or video. It supported telephony (voice communications), but not telecommunications (data, image, and video). Realizing this helps us to understand some of the problems occurring as telephony (voice communications), WAN, LAN, wireless communications, and PC technologies merge to become telecommunications in the next millennium. The scary thought is that any person born today will not know a world without portable PCs to serve them. They will have no concept of products that last and last for years. Gone are the days of the old telephone that was designed to work for 40 years.

Telecommunications is the merging of voice, data (WAN), LAN, video, image, and wireless communications technologies with PC and microelectronic technologies to facilitate communications between people or to deliver entertainment, information, and other services to people. Microelectronics is the technology of constructing electronic circuits and devices in very small packages such as computer chips. Telecommunications represents a convergence of these technologies into networks and systems that serve people planet-wide. Traditional data communications, or WAN communications, were the transmission of data (at that time text and numbers) between sites. They encompassed all the necessary computer hardware, electronics, optical equipment, and signaling techniques required to send encoded information. LANs distributed information around a single facility or a campus of facilities. Television required delivery of video information to distribution points (TV stations). Images were sent by facsimile (fax) transmission because the images could not be easily encoded as data. Wireless transmission evolved from early two-way radio systems (walkie-talkies) that permitted instant intercom-like communications between people, regardless of their physical location. All these forms of communication have been hugely influenced by the rapid and incessant changes in microelectronic technologies since these changes helped to shrink all these devices. These
technological advances are rapidly making the old Dick Tracy wrist TV a practical reality. They are the fuel for convergence and the rapid evolution of new products and communications services. The Internet provides a focal point of standardization (TCP/IP and HTML), and a platform for developing and delivering new services to consumers. The master of these technologies and the Internet will dominate the planet. This is a scary thought, but true.

Telephony:

Many telecommunications managers got their start by monitoring telephone bills from AT&T. In the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, telecommunications described the technologies for communicating voice. At that time, telecommunications management controlled communications expenses and telephone abuse within an organization. Soon, telecommunications began to incorporate image and messaging technologies. Telecommunications competition expanded when Judge Harold Greene completed divestiture in 1984. Soon, enterprise-wide communications networks began to integrate more non-AT&T services, and more importantly, a wider range of telecommunications technologies. Today we have entered in earnest the era of digital networking, that is, having widespread digital communications supporting voice, imaging, and data communications to the desktop.

Why is a book on telecommunications focusing on the PC as the root cause of new telecommunications and computing technologies in the future? It is simply because the primary tool for most workers in any industry is a microprocessor-based PC. Such PCs range from desktop PCs to laptop PCs to special hand-held devices performing specific work functions (such as the PCs used by Federal Express and UPS to track shipments). These PCs are attached to telecommunications channels and services to perform their work activity support functions.

Today we are in the process of implementing a balanced Tele-computing work environment. Balanced Tele-computing is the label for matching both computing and telecommunications tools to an employee’s work functions and job activities. It is the balance between the capabilities of the desktop or hand-held PC, the capabilities of the communications channels, and the processing and database support provided by network servers. It is like technologically-oriented industrial engineering—giving an employee the computer and communications technologies that make them most productive in their job.
Telephony is traditional voice communications. It is communications facilitated by the telephones we have all come to know and love. We dial the number of another phone and talk into the headset microphone while listening to the headset speaker. Our voice is sent from one phone to the other, regardless of the distance. The drawback is that a wire, or more accurately, a channel (a communications path similar to a trough of water) must connect the phones for the duration of the call. This channel is switched into place by the telephone network for the duration of the call. All telephones and telephone subscribers share the facilities of the telephone network. This means that we cannot all talk at the same time because the telephone network is not designed to handle such a large load of telephone calls. One reason people were told not to call each other just as the next millennium began was that everyone calling would overload the telephone network. The result would be everyone hearing the fast busy signal. Then they would think that the phone network was down because of some strange Y2K bug, when it was really brought down by an overload of unnecessary calls. Today we occasionally have peak periods when the telephone network is overloaded, particularly during disasters when huge chunks of the telephone network infrastructure are incapacitated. Sometimes on Mother’s Day the network also becomes overloaded. The definition of telephony has been expanded by the telephone industry to embrace other types of transmission. They define telephony as the science of transmitting voice, data, video, or images over a distance that is greater than one can shout. Regardless of this expanded definition, telephony retains its largely voice communications flavor.

Telephony is used by the telephone industry to describe their business. Because they were voice network providers, this definition fit. As the use of communications networks changed, the telephone industry incorporated more than just voice communications; they began carrying data, and video.

Further, they moved away from the traditional wired approach to delivering services to some new wireless delivery systems. To better fit the new business model, the telephone industry used telecommunications to describe their business. Today, the telephone industry uses telecommunications to describe the transmission of voice, video, image, and data across today’s telephone infrastructure.
Mobile phones have become the primary form of telecommunication in both developed and developing countries. Globally, mobile phone networks play the same role that fixed-line phone networks did in facilitating growth in Europe & North America in the 20th century. The industry has experienced explosive growth in a relatively short time span. The first billion mobile phones took around 20 years to sell worldwide. The second billion were sold in four years. The third billion were sold in two years. Coverage has expanded and mobile phone subscriptions in developing countries have increased by over 500% since 2000 (Wireless Intelligence 2007). It is estimated that over 50% of the world’s population will own a mobile phone and that 80% of the world’s population will live within the range of a cellular network, by the end of 2008. The projections for future performance are similarly impressive to those tracking past performance. By 2010, GSMA projects that 90% of the world will be covered by mobile networks and mobile communication will deliver data, internet and voice services to more than 5 billion people by 2015 – double the number connected today (GSMA, 2007). The mobile telephony is increasing now a day because of following reason;

- Affordability (Demand side)
- Affordability (Supply Side)
- Flexibility of communication
- Lower barriers in entry
- Increasing status of the mobile telephony among the people

There are so many benefits of mobile telephony for this fastest growing world and that are;

- Growth of GDP of the country
- Creation of employment
- Increase in the productivity of the country
- Tax revenue for the country

The future of computers and telecommunications was shaped by a war between PC software rivals. It began with Microsoft and Novell. Each had technical and market strengths
in different areas. Microsoft dominated PC operating environments, while Novell dominated PC LAN software. Each saw the impending battle over PC market share focused around PC communications. The war started in earnest in 1995 with the release of Windows NT servers and Windows 95 clients. The Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) communications software built into these Microsoft products takes PC communications to new levels. Today, the Microsoft vs. Novell war is over before it really began, and Microsoft won.

But, a new war is developing between Linux and the legions of Linux followers and implementers, and Microsoft and Windows. Further, Microsoft is fighting on another front to dominate PC access to the Internet. The justice department monopoly litigation against Microsoft was started by Microsoft’s competitive practices against Netscape, a rival Web browser manufacturer. The winners here will play a significant role in shaping how we use communications and computers in the office and at home. Every company in the computer and communications industry understands that any company dominating the Internet and the devices that deliver the Internet to our homes and offices can become the monopoly IBM was in the computer industry of the 1960s through 1980s. Turf wars in the telecommunications industry are continuous. The goal for every organization is to become the company that delivers one device, one network, and the information and entertainment services everyone uses. PCs today are migrating toward one universal communications application, the Web browser! Microsoft has integrated into the Windows Internet Explorer the ability to view desktop publishing files produced by Microsoft Word. The Internet Explorer also permits users to listen to music. With Windows, active desktop news and other information is delivered to the desktop in video form as well. However, regardless of how integrated Microsoft’s products are, Microsoft dominance of the PC is not assured. So, compute communications turf battles continue. Local Area Networks have played a significant role in effectively integrating PCs and communications into the workplace. The need to easily and quickly share files and printers was obvious in the early days of PCs (the early 1980s). The first LANs emerged in 1983. Most businesses began connecting their PCs together with a network to facilitate sharing of financial and administrative data and collaboration on special projects. These LANs soon provided backbone communications for businesses. Today virtually every PC is connected to a LAN or some other form of
communications to permit file and printer sharing and to provide email service and more sophisticated group collaboration on business projects. Soon LANs will play a significant role in the home. Households with an old and a new PC are networking them together. As PC prices fall lower still and the number of PCs in a household increases, more households will have a LAN. Specialized PCs will be added to perform specific functions; for example, the entertainment center-controlling PC that plays MP3 music, records video for later viewing, and gathers the news like a newspaper for us to read at our desired down time. A LAN interconnects regular workstation PCs with specialized PCs and the Internet. This makes 24/7 function possible.
There are four key areas competing to provide high-speed LAN access to the Internet. They are:

1. Cable modems

2. Digital Subscriber Lines (DSLs)

3. Radio Frequency (RF) broadband distribution

4. Electrical power network links

The importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in socio-economic development cannot be overemphasized. In fact, ICTs have proved to be an indispensable factor and the nerve centre of an economy, with a direct multiplier effect on all its other sectors. All development sectors and major actors (public, private and civil society in general) in rural and urban areas in Benin need to share information related to information and communication technologies. In Benin, conventional telephony is still a public monopoly entrusted to the incumbent operator, Benin Telecom SA. This monopoly has not been beneficial to the growth of the sector which is characterized by a low rate of telephone penetration, a slow development of networks and very poor trunk telephone links. The ICT sector reforms undertaken in the ‘90s opened some branches of activity (in particular the GSM mobile telephone and the Internet) to competition. The opening of the GSM mobile telephone segment to competition in the year 2000 enabled four operators to move into the business. These included three private operators (Areeba, Moov, Bell Benin Communications) and one public operator (Libercom), a subsidiary of the incumbent operator in the sector (Bénin Télécoms SA). The GSM sector witnessed a tremendous boost as demonstrated by the rapid growth of the number of subscribers to its various networks.
This rapid growth of the GSM sector was not matched by appropriate measures to address the problem of geographical coverage and therefore contribute to universal service. The government intervened through the regulatory authority of the sector, which resides in the Ministry Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of the New Information and Communication Technologies, to enforce universal service objectives. Following their specifications, operators must deploy their networks in compliance with a coverage plan that would make it possible to guarantee 85% coverage within six years of their existence. Today, the mobile telephone sector also needs to be regulated with regard to pricing and interconnection. Indeed, interconnection between telecommunications networks operators is mandatory in Benin and should be done under the conditions defined by the regulatory authority. Benin was connected to the Internet in December 1995. The very rapid growth in the sector led to the popularization of this technology in the big cities, especially in Cotonou and Porto Novo. The costs and the availability of lines in a reasonable time are factors that obstruct the operation of this technology across the national territory. There is still no autonomous regulatory body in the ICT sector in Benin. The decision to set up such a body has been announced but postponed several times. The ministry in charge of ICTs currently acts as the regulatory authority. It is usually assisted in its duties by the incumbent operator, Bénin Télécoms SA. Benin also does not have an integrated ICT policy implemented by a single autonomous agency. This is despite Government authorities’ public commitment to promote access to information and communication to foster sustainable development. A healthy regulatory environment is crucial for the development of the telecommunications sector. It is not easy to appraise the regulatory framework of a country like Benin which does not yet have an autonomous regulatory body that is independent of public authorities. The study on the telecommunications regulatory environment uses the perception assessment method designed for this purpose by LIRNE Asia. The findings of this study, amongst other things, enable a better understanding of the difficulties that hamper the harmonious development of the ICT sector in Benin. In the Benin there are main five mobile operators and they are:
1. Moov
2. BBCOM
3. MTN
4. Libercom

5. Areeba

The regulation of the telecommunication is delegated to the main four institutions by the Benin government and the institutions are;

1. The Audiovisual and Communication High Authority;

2. The Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of NICTs (MDCCNT/PR);

3. Benin Informatics Centre (CBI);

4. An NICTs Management Agency (AGENTIC)

Certain regulation difficulties are also arise in the Benin. Operators suffer from a lack of effective operational regulation (interconnection, frequency management, management of disagreements). In the field of telephony, the allocation of radio electric frequencies is within the province of the Ministry in Charge of Telecommunication. The control of its frequencies, once allocated, is ensured by the Regulation Authority. The frequencies devoted to radio and television broadcasting are allocated by the HAAC. And yet, these frequencies are the same. In Benin, there is currently no reliable frequency distribution table. The telecommunication structure of the Benin is also developing and there are main following participants;
1. BéninTélécoms SA, the incumbent public operator;
2. Five GSM mobile telephone operators;
3. Radiopaging operators;
4. Several Internet access operators;
5. Data transmission operators;
6. Several providers of computer-related services;
7. Several Cybercafé.

There are main three value added services are used by the people widely like;
1. Internet
2. Wireless
3. Data Transmission
In the internet, there are main four major players in the market.
1. Firstnet;
2. Sobiexinformatique;
3. EspaceInformatiqueetTélécommunications (EIT);
4. Arts BoBo that currently operates more as an IAP.

Data transmission is still a monopoly under BéninTélécoms SA, Africa Telecom operates in this area by offering clients like Ecobank and Bank of Africa (BOA) the possibility of having international access and transmitting data on Wide Area Networks (WAN) via VSAT. In the Benin, the MTN having a largest mobile subscribers as compared to the other participants with the total 1,05,875 numbers of subscribers.

So, with the help of the research we can say that the telecommunication sector of the Benin is developing as compared to the other countries of the world because the Benin is very small country in the west Africa with very poverty and developing in the nature but the recent growth of the telecommunication sector shows the bright future of the telecommunication sector in the Benin.
3. Tourism Industry in Benin

TOURISM IN BENIN
Tourism has become a major recreation pursuit and a worldwide commercial industry. It is so significant today that the economies of some regions (even some countries) are more heavily dependent upon tourism than anything else.
The tourism industry encompasses the provision of all those services used by people when travelling away from home, including booking services, transport, accommodation, tourist retail outlets and attractions.

WHEN TO VISIT BENIN: IT’S CLIMATE

The climate of Benin is typically tropical with two dry seasons and two wet seasons. Humidity along the coast is higher than in the north, with average day temperatures of 31°C (87.8°F). In the north, which is a semi-arid area, temperatures vary between 40°C (104°F) and a minimum of 13°C (55.4°F).
The best time to visit Benin would be from December to March and July/August in the southern region, and from December to April in the northern region.

GOVERNMENT POLICY
The government of Benin is giving priority to the development of the local tourism industry so that the country can win its fair share of the millions of visitors each year from around the world who want to experience first-hand some of the very special places that abound on the African continent.

- Tourism identified as central to national development
- Benin is developing beach, eco and cultural tourism

REGULATION OF THE TOURISM SECTOR
Governments seek to achieve a wide range of social, economic, environmental and equity objectives through spending, taxation and through regulation. Government regulation provides rules, standards and guidance for individuals and organizations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT
- Africa’s unique and varied natural and cultural resources bode well for the growing global travel trends towards nature and culture exploration.
• Tourism is a job intensive industry that generates jobs from semi-skilled to managerial levels.
• It should be noted that the tourism turnover trickles down to the poor from supply chains as it enhances the development of and access to a range of basic infrastructure in the poor local communities such as electricity, water and roads.
• Tourism is very conducive to small business development and provides opportunities for many types of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) such as tour guides, handicrafts, artists and performance artists, transport and personal services and many more.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN BENIN
The Fishing Road Tourism Development Project (PDTRP) is a zoning and regional development operation contained in the Beninese government’s large tasks program to fight against poverty. It’s based on the main national development agenda.
Benin 2006-2011 Strategic Development Orientation Program (1st strategic axis for the rehabilitation and the valorization of an attractive tourist site)
• Tourism Highlights
• Tourism Promotion Structure
• Sustainable Tourism

TOURISM INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
There is a large variety of tourist attractions and many of them are still largely untapped and even at their raw stages. These attractions are being enjoyed by few outsiders, either very rich visitors in quest of exoticism or adventurous people in search of new challenges and experiences. The lack of required modern infrastructural facilities, acute conditions of underdevelopment in some parts of the country and the poverty that can be seen, are aspects which many potential Benin bound tourists may not be comfortable with. Development of parks, entertainment facilities and shopping services; Development of arts and crafts encouraging symbols of the people’s cultural values and love for nature.
• International finance corporation (IFC) investments in tourism and hotel industry
• Benin - economy & investment plan
TOURISM ATTRACTION

- Porto-Novo
- Grand Popo
- Ouidah
- National parks
- Ganvie found on Lake Nokoue
- The Royal Palaces of Abomey
- Cape Town
- Durban
- Pretoria
- Restaurants In Benin

THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF TRAVEL & TOURISM

Travel & Tourism is an important economic activity in most countries around the world. As well as its direct economic impact, the industry has significant indirect and induced impacts. The UN Statistics Division-approved Tourism Satellite Accounting methodology (TSA:RMF 2008) quantifies only the direct contribution of Travel & Tourism. But WTTC recognises that Travel & Tourism's total contribution is much greater, and aims to capture its indirect and induced impacts through its annual research.

- Direct Contribution
- Total Contribution
- Travel & Tourism's Contribution To GDP
- Travel & Tourism's Contribution To Employment
- Different Components Of Travel &Tourism

ACCOMMODATION IN TOURISM

Accommodation And Hospitality

Benin Hotels And Accommodation

Benin provides visitors with a reasonable selection of hotels and resorts in every price range, ranging from luxury to budget. Several are located along the coastline, such as the
Marina Hotel (ex-Sheraton) and NovotelOrishaCotonou. Myosotis Residence Hotel & Spa is located 100 meters from the sea, with a bar on the roof offering a view of the whole city. The Hotel du Lac is a mid-range hotel with good location, pool, running hot water and AC. Not to be missed though is the small family-run Maison Rouge Hotel. As you head towards the north of Benin accommodation options tend to become more restricted. However, all major towns in Benin provide a reasonable choice of hotels.

**BENIN SECURES TOURISM INVESTMENT**

Benin has made impressive economic recovery in recent years and is now poised for a future that holds huge promise. The government's policy on clear governance, liberalization and privatization has provided the economy the much needed vigor for growth. This is the kind of investment atmosphere that Dubai World is searching for."
4. Cotton Industry of Benin

The economy of Benin remains underdeveloped and dependent on subsistence agriculture, cotton production, and regional trade. Growth in real output had averaged almost 4% before the global recession and it has returned to roughly that level in 2011-12. Inflation has subsided over the past several years. In order to raise growth, Benin plans to attract more foreign investment, place more emphasis on tourism, facilitate the development of new food processing systems and agricultural products, and encourage new information and communication technology. Specific projects to improve the business climate by reforms to the land tenure system, the commercial justice system, and the financial sector were included in Benin's $307 million Millennium Challenge Account grant signed in February 2006. The 2001 privatization policy continues in telecommunications, water, electricity, and agriculture. The Paris Club and bilateral creditors have eased the external debt situation with Benin benefiting from a G-8 debt reduction announced in July 2005, while pressing for more rapid structural reforms. An insufficient electrical supply continues to adversely affect Benin's economic growth though the government recently has taken steps to increase domestic power production. Private foreign direct investment is small, and foreign aid accounts for the majority of investment in infrastructure projects. Cotton, a key export, suffered from flooding in 2010-11, but high prices supported export earnings. The government agreed to a 25% increase in civil servant salaries in 2011, following a series of strikes, increasing pressure on the national budget. Benin has appealed for international assistance to mitigate piracy against commercial shipping in its territory.

Cotton subsidies have received considerable attention during the past four years, primarily triggered by the excessive government support received by the cotton sectors in the United States and the European Union. In response to that support, four cotton-producing countries in West and Central Africa—Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Chad—have requested that the Doha round of negotiations on trade liberalization contain financial compensation for WCA countries for as long as those Western subsidies remain in place. Brazil also brought a case to the World Trade Organization, claiming that the U.S. subsidies cause a reduction in the world prices of cotton, thus reducing the income of Brazilian cotton growers.

Western cotton subsidies should be abolished, but not much attention has been paid to another, perhaps more important, issue. Many African cotton-producing countries, especially
in WCA, must reform their cotton sector in order to allow a greater share of the world price to reach the growers and must foster a policy environment that is conducive to the promotion of new technologies. For the most part, the cotton sectors of the WCA countries are managed by government-owned parastatals. Competition by private entities is limited—with deleterious consequences for the efficiency of the cotton sectors.

Cotton is the main export crop in Benin. 98% of cotton fibre is exported. Textile industry (spinning, knitting/weaving, colouring, confection) is limited to only a few industries. Benin cotton fibre has a good reputation on the international markets. However, cotton production in Benin has a poor record regarding the health of farmers, the environment, the net income of farmers, and the involvement of women in production.

Benin’s cotton sector was a success story until the mid 1990s. It developed somewhat differently from other West African Francophone countries, as it is one of the few cotton industries in WCA in which Dagris, the French parastatal cotton development company, does not play an active role. The interest in Benin lies in the fact that it is the first country in the FCFA zone to have deeply reformed its cotton sector in the 1990s, through a liberalization and privatization process clearly departing from the traditional exclusive zone approach. The reform process included the setting up of a complex institutional structure, aimed at introducing private investment in the sector and at ensuring coordination among actors.
5. Textile Industry

Benin is one of the West African Francophone countries that has most deeply reformed its cotton sector, in particular through suppressing the single channel relationship between ginners and farmers, a common feature of the West African cotton sector model. Despite outcomes of the reform, which occurred between 1993 and 2005, and which fell far below expectations, an analysis of this experience is useful to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the system the reforms created, and to identify ways to improve it. Benin is among the countries most dependant on cotton: in the 1980s the sector contributed to more than 10 percent of GDP, and benefited to more than 300,000 small farmers. The end of the marxist regime (1972-1978) allowed for the rapid development of cotton production with the creation of SONAPRA (1984), a Government owned cotton company. SONAPRA held a monopoly on the purchase of seed cotton, the sale of lint cotton and the delivery, on credit, of cotton inputs to farmers. At that time, the sector compared favorably to other West African cotton sectors, with higher yields and higher prices paid to producers. However SONAPRA incurred heavy losses by the end of the decade, and the Government, which had embarked on a structural adjustment program, decided in 1991 to withdraw from cotton production and liberalize the sector. Most of the reform measures were implemented between 1993 and 2000 and included: (a) the input supply function was progressively transferred to the private sector, and SONAPRA withdrew from this activity in 2000; (b) eight private ginners were progressively licensed between 1995 and 1998 (resulting in a ginning over-capacity), and were attributed quotas of seed cotton by SONAPRA until 2000, by which time the monopoly of SONAPRA on seed cotton marketing was abolished; (c) national professional associations of grouping ginners, or input importers and distributors were created; (d) inter-professional bodies were created to manage the sector, in particular: (i) an inter-professional association, was put in charge of managing the critical functions of the supply chain operation, and coordinating the various professional families; (iii) a clearing house was created through which all payments made by ginners would be channeled, so that the repayment of the input credit could be deducted before final payment to producers. The privatization of SONAPRA was also scheduled. The reform process and, in particular, AIC, was financially supported by the World Bank. The reform policy was confirmed and updated in 2001, with the stated objective of "developing a private but nationally integrated cotton supply chain", the management of which would be transferred from the Government to the inter-professional body. The reform strategy resulted in a highly regulated system, in which
seed cotton was allocated by the inter-profession to (public and private) ginners proportionally to their ginning capacity, and without competition among them, while prices of seed cotton remained fixed and pan territorial (uniform throughout the country). The Government soon began to give mixed signals on its commitment to withdraw from the management of the sector: the interprofessional agreement (signed in 2005), which gave a legal basis to AIC's regulating power, was cancelled by the Government in 2007; SONAPRA’s privatization was postponed several times4; the Government kept interfering in the sector management allowing, or even encouraging, some private ginners and input distributors to by-pass the centralized payment system, resulting in the inability of CSPR to fully pay farmers for the seed cotton collected between 2002 and 2006. As a combined effect of these payment problems and the fall of producers’ prices (due to the world market trend), cotton production declined sharply from 2001/2 (400,000 tons) to 2005/6 (less than 200,000 tons), and remained at a low level in subsequent years. The fall in production increased the ginning overcapacity, which affected further the competitiveness of the industry. Because it is a politically and socially very sensitive sector, the Government had meanwhile to compensate for the losses incurred by SONAPRA, to offset the debts to farmers for unpaid cotton, to subsidize in 2006/07 producers’ prices, and more recently, to subsidize inputs. It can be concluded that the difficulties encountered in the reform process were mainly due to the combination of a number of factors: (a) lack of willingness of the Government to play the game, while the highly administered system would have required strong Government support to operate smoothly; (b) the mechanism put in place was probably too complex, and too administered, and competition among actors did not really take place; (c) farmers’ organisations were too weak to play their role of partners in the supply chain organization. The system also, because it was highly administered, failed to transfer to the actors the right incentives and market signals, thus resulting in a structural lack of efficiency, in particular for input supply. The sale of SONAPRA's industrial assets, finally completed in October 2008, will probably modify the overall picture of the cotton sector, as it has resulted in one large-scale private group controlling a very large part of the input supply and ginning activity. This move to a very concentrated sector might require other regulating tools than the ones currently in place, and a new reform is presently being considered by the Government.
6. Cashew Nut Dry Fruit Industry

Cashew is held with great esteem in many customs and cultures. Its value can be estimated from a question that appeared on the household census in Mozambique that asked whether the house owned any cashew trees. Cashew is known by many names. In Mozambique, the Maconde tribe refer to it as the ‘Devil’s Nut’. It is offered at wedding ceremonies as a token of fertility and is considered by many to have aphrodisiac properties.

Less than 10% of the 4,75,000 MT of raw cashews produced in West Africa are processed locally, a surprisingly small percentage given the region’s status as the world’s second largest producer of raw cashews in 2006. The local processing industry consists of industrial processors (processing more than 1,000 MT of raw nuts/year) mainly targeting the bulk export market, semi-industrial facilities selling mainly in local markets, and cottage processors—informal groups that process irregularly without investments in equipment, buildings, etc., and that sell locally. Exporting cashew kernels requires volume. The international market buys predominantly full container loads of cashew kernels, packaged in 50-pound boxes. Filling one container of 20-foot (6.1m) necessitates loading 15+ MT of processed cashew kernels (approximately 700 boxes). Fifteen MT of cashew kernels means processing 75 MT of raw cashew nuts, since the kernels make up about 20% of the raw nut on average. Thus, in order for a processor to consistently sell cashew kernels throughout the year, significant capacity is needed. For example, a capacity of 1,000 MT is the minimum needed for a processor to fill just one container per month. Additionally, all processed cashews often cannot be sold in one container, as cashew kernels are sold in 26 different grades, and buyers prefer to have as few different grades as possible per container. With relatively limited volume, it is difficult for a processor to sell all 26 grades internationally while also fulfilling buyers’ conditions to include a limited number of grades per container. At this point, a local market for some of the grades is crucial for the processor to achieve profitability. And for smaller scale processors, who cannot export in bulk, the local market is their only sales outlet. Thus, increasing cashew consumption rates in the national and regional markets will help larger processors improve profitability by enabling them to sell grades not included in their regular shipments while helping smaller processors expand their businesses. This study is meant to be a tool for those cashew processors who want to increase their sales in the regional West African market. If international companies manage to sell other products on every street corner and realize substantial turnover, African cashew processors can do the same. Cashews, widely
appreciated in the subregion, are healthy and can compete with other snacks, such as potato chips or plantain chips.

The West Africa Trade Hub/Accra (WATH/A) and the African Cashew Alliance (ACA) initiated and coordinated this study. Field research in 10 different countries was financed and/or conducted by different partner organizations on the ground. 2 Researchers interviewed managers of supermarkets, small shops and roadside stands, service stations, hotels, restaurants, and airport shops (addresses are included at the end of individual country reports, available as separate documents.) Researchers also interviewed consumers in hotels and supermarkets and conducted a consumer panel in which different cashews were evaluated on taste, packaging, and price.

Average prices for cashew kernels in West African markets are similar to those in Europe and the U.S., indicating that cashews are relatively expensive in West Africa given local economies. Although cashews are well-known and appreciated by West African consumers, price limits growth in sales (except in Nigeria, where quality is perceived as the main limitation). Reasons for the high prices include the small scale of many processing facilities that supply the local market, inefficient distribution methods, high transport costs, high packaging costs, and suboptimal sales of broken nuts/pieces.

Cashews are widely distributed through supermarkets (targeting upper-class nationals and expatriates) and, to a lesser extent, roadside stands (simpler packaging, often unbranded, lower quality and prices) and service stations (often lower prices than supermarkets). Hotels and restaurants, in tourist and non-tourist areas, are an underdeveloped market channel in most countries. In Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, and on occasion in Senegal, cashews are sold through hotel room mini-bars, but in other countries hotels use cashews only in small quantities in cooking and for occasional conferences. Many hotel managers indicated interest in well-packaged (preferably private labeled) cashews. Wholesale distribution is underdeveloped, except in Burkina Faso and Nigeria, as established roasters usually distribute their own product to each client. Most cashews on the African market originate from local processors, however in Ghana, Nigeria, and The Gambia, imported cashews from Europe and Asia are found.

Not all West African consumers are aware of the origin of their cashews, and they indicate that they would be more interested if the product was African-branded. Similarly, consumers reacted positively to health claims on cashew packages. In general, there is hardly any promotion for cashews in West African markets. Simple posters or promotion campaigns could raise awareness and increase consumption. Obtaining attractive packaging is a
challenge in most countries. The most common packages are simple plastic bags with stick-on labels, though more sophisticated color-printed plastic and aluminium sachets are made by some roasters in Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, and Senegal. For larger quantities, recycled liquor bottles are common, unlabeled or re-labeled. Ghana’s plastic jars are the most widely appreciated packaging in the region, according to consumers.

Most cashew processors operating in West Africa target local markets. The international market is more demanding in terms of quality and shipment uniformity, and is subject to relatively larger price fluctuations. Even as West African exports grow, the local market will remain an important outlet for export-oriented operations—especially for off-grade (broken) kernels—and a secure source of income. To date, cashew consumption in local markets in West Africa has been marginal, especially compared to other cashew producing countries like India, where local markets played a critical role in the development of world-class, export-oriented sectors, even though India itself introduced cashews only 100 years ago (they are originally from Brazil). The 231.3 million West African consumers can also become an important market for off-grades and secondary products, such as cashew cookies, other sweets, and cashew-based sauces.
7. Health Service Industry of Benin

Health sector in Benin

The republic of Benin is located in western Africa, and borders Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Togo with a south coast along the Atlantic Ocean. Benin is divided in 12 departments and 77 communes. Porto Novo is the capital but the largest city and thesea east of government is Cotonou(located in the department of Littora). In the Benin country I was studied health service how to provide. Which facility have given for the Benin people that have a introduce. Radiological diagnostic services are considered an essential technology and analysis of radiological reports can provide the much needed information for planning of effective health care delivery system. 66 % of households have access to running water and only 32% of households possess a toilet. Air pollution is important because every day almost 83 tons of carbon monoxide are produced in the main cities all over the country.

covers systematic workforce planning, human resources policies and regulation, performance management, training/education, and incentives. health personnel between the public and private sector and various subsectors. evaluates the health system’s pharmaceutical policy, laws, and regulations; selection of pharmaceuticals; procurement, storage, and distribution of pharmaceuticals; Benin health sector has a strong partnership group. This partnership is made of: Bilateral Cooperation with the Swiss, the French, the Dutch, the Canadian cooperation, and the United State Agency for International Development (USAID). There is also multilateral cooperation such as European Union, the World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization, United Nations Development Program, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, West African Health Organization ( WAHO) and African Development Bank. Other partners and Organization contribute to the health sector development: Global Fund, Presidential Malaria Initiative, and Malaria Booster Program. Many nongovernmental organizations like Care International, Oxfam Quebec, Plan Bénin, Catholic Relief Service, Benin Red Cross etcBavaroise, Medecins Sans Frontière, AsssociationFrançaise des Volontaires de la Paix, Peace Corps and Africare are also involved. The Ministry of Health has put in place a consultative mechanism with all its partners and calls a meeting twice every year, not mentioning the Health Sector Performance Review Meeting which takes place every year. In addition there are other consultative mechanisms for health specific topic such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria. United Nations Agencies in Benin also have their own consultative mechanisms which are the CCA and UNDAF. Coverage of the collection of the financial resources the
pooling and allocation of health funds, including government budget allocation and health insurance; and the process of purchasing and providing payments for health care. Benin has 34 health districts and half of them are functional. Health budget as a percentage of government budget was 8% in 2010. Households account for 52% of health budget. There is a lack of qualified health staff at the district level and their distribution is uneven. The health system decentralization is still ongoing. Reforms with downsizing of the directorates at central level have started in 2010 and are going on at departmental and district levels. The newly launched free cesarean section, free malaria case management in children less than 5 years and pregnant women and universal health insurance system will greatly facilitate scaling up of health interventions and enhance access to health service. Improving the health status of populations is both an objective of economic and social development and reducing poverty. Indeed health contributes to improve the quality and effectiveness of human capital. That is why under the GSPR, the Government had opted for: (i) The development and equipping of health facilities, (ii) Securing pharmaceutical products and medical consumables, (iii) The development of a regional health offer of reference, (iv) The improvement of food and nutrition, (iv) The promotion of sports and recreational activities.

The University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) was functionally opened in 1973. It provides specialist care for patients referred to it from existing peripheral private clinics and hospitals, government and specialist’s hospitals. It runs a general out-patient and accident and emergency unit (A&E), and these form an important source of its out-patients. This was a descriptive study and patients who were referred to the X-ray Department of UBTH from both out-patient and in-patient departments made up the subjects for this study.

Benin has a population of 9067076 inhabitant with a population growth rate of 3.25%. Benin population is mostly young, 49% are less than 15 years. The fertility index is 5.7 children. The bulk of Benin’s economy income, is provided by agriculture on which rely 56% of the population. 52, 2% of household are poor. There is imbalance in the economy. The HDI (Human Development Index is 0.437) and the country is 163 out of 177 countries in the ranking system. The country has 12 departments and 77 communes. Cholera history of Major outbreaks occurred in 1991, 1996 and 2001. In 1991, the largest outbreak in the country accounting for 7474 cases.
and 259 deaths (case fatality rate of 3.47%) was reported. In 1996, 6190 cases and 203 deaths were reported (CFR 3.28%). As of 23 October 2011, Benin reported 350 cases including 2 deaths (CFR 0.57%). The majority of cases (95%) were reported from the Atlantique department (communes of Allada and So-Ava) and Littoral department (Cotonou II). 15 cases were reported from the department of Zou. The under-performance observed in the context of the fight against malaria can be explained by the fact that the shift in policy for the management of malaria cases from therapeutic combination based on artemisin (ACT), which started in early 2004 led to a disruption of the proper care of cases of uncomplicated malaria with chloroquine both in health centres and in communities. Also, the high fatality rate can be explained primarily Malaria causes many casualties. It is the leading cause of birth-mortality and strongly influences the rate of infant mortality. It is also the cause of absenteeism, resulting in huge economic losses for both families, individuals and for the nation.

A lack of resources for the care of serious cases in hospitals; Inadequate service upgrades in health centres;

A late appeal to health services by people suffering from serious cases.

The Government has taken steps of prevention through its national programme to fight against malaria and increase access to treatment, especially in rural areas. The following actions were taken: (1)Construction of an incinerator for the virology laboratory; (2) construction d’un incinérateur pour le laboratoire de virologie ; (3) Training of 75 health workers, doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians on the detection and treatment of TB; (4) Customized retraining of nurses and laboratory technicians of CDT; (5) Purchases of 2nd line medecines for resistant patients;(6) The purchase of film for radiology departments; (7)Organization of outreach campaigns for the free impregnation of mosquito nets in health zones; (8)Monitoring of the distribution system of MTI and Drugs; (9)The acquisition of long lasting treated mosquito nets; (10) The acquisition of medico technical equipment in the departments.
8. Transportation Industry

Benin, republic in western Africa, on the Gulf of Guinea. Known in full as the Republic of Benin, it extends inland about 670 km (about 415 mi) from its 121-km (75-mi) long gulf coast. Benin is bordered on the north by Burkina Faso and Niger, on the east by Nigeria, and on the west by Togo. Formerly part of French West Africa, it gained independence in 1960 as Dahomey; it was named Benin in 1975. It has an area of 112,622 sq km (43,484 sq mi). Porto-Novo is the capital and Cotonou is the largest city.

Transportation modes are an essential component of transport systems since they are the means by which mobility is supported. Geographers consider a wide range of modes that may be grouped into three broad categories based on the medium they exploit: land, water and air. Each mode has its own requirements and features, and is adapted to serve the specific demands of freight and passenger traffic. This gives rise to marked differences in the ways the modes are deployed and utilized in different parts of the world. More recently, there is a trend towards integrating the modes through intermodality and linking the modes ever more closely into production and distribution activities. At the same time, however, passenger and freight activity is becoming increasingly separated across most modes.

Those axes are complemented by five East–West corridors, of which two are paved, connecting Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Despite its poor and limited infrastructure, in particular in the port sector, Benin’s capacity to efficiently move goods and connect manufacturers and consumers with international markets is among the best in West Africa, trailing only Senegal, according to a recent survey of trade logistics. Feedback on the logistics “friendliness” of the countries in which operators on the ground (global freight forwarders and express carriers) is packaged in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI). Benin’s LPI, at 2.79, is above the regional average of 2.46 (figure 5). The components that received the lowest scores by operators in the country were the quality of trade- and transport-related infrastructure (ports, railroads, roads, information technology) and the efficiency of the clearance process (speed, simplicity, and predictability of formalities) by border control agencies. The time required to trade across Benin’s borders is longer the average experienced by coastal countries in West Africa but better than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa. On the transport side, Benin has a binational railway line.
jointly owned jointly with Niger (Organisation commune Bénin-Niger des Chemins de Feret des Transports, OCBN). The line between Cotonou and Parakou is part of one of the main transport corridors in the country, linking the north and central part of the country to the main sea port in Cotonou. The country’s international airport is located in Cotonou.

The total length of the road network in Benin is about 15,700 km. It consists of about 6,076 km of main roads (interstate roads and national roads), 7,800 km of rural roads, and 1,800 km of urban roads (secondary and tertiary roads in urban areas). Two paved north–south corridors link Cotonou and Niamey (Niger), and Cotonou, Ouadougu (Burkina Faso), and Bamako (Mali). Those axes are complemented with five east–west corridors that connect Togo, Benin, and Nigeria; two of these are paved.

An efficient transport system offering cost, time and reliability advantages permits goods to be transported over longer distances. This facilitates mass production through economies of scale because larger markets can be accessed. The concept of “just-in-time” has further expanded the productivity of production and distribution with benefits such as lower inventory levels and better responses to shifting market conditions. Thus, the more efficient transportation becomes, the larger the markets that can be serviced and the larger the scale of production.

The time required to trade across Benin’s borders is longer the average experienced by coastal countries in West Africa but better than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa. The time necessary to comply with all procedures required to export goods from Benin is 30 days, versus 24 days in other coastal countries in West Africa. On average 32 days are required to import goods into Benin, above the average for regional coastal countries, at 28 days. The cost to export or import to Benin, at around $1,300 per container, is comparable with the costs faced by Nigeria, but considerably higher than the costs of 1 The Logistics Performance Index is based on a worldwide survey of operators on the ground (global freight forwarders and express carriers), providing feedback on the logistics “friendliness” of the countries in which they operate and those with which they trade. They combine in-depth knowledge of the countries in which they operate.

