



### Compact Goal

The Benin Compact removes key constraints to economic growth and supports improvements in physical and institutional infrastructures in four critical sectors in order to increase investment and private sector activity in Benin. The Compact comprises four projects: Access to Land, Access to Financial Services, Access to Justice, and Access to Markets.

### Update on Progress

On November 3, MCA-Benin hosted a general assembly of organizations representing farmers, civil society groups, unions, and artisans. The groups elected representatives from these groups to serve on the Advisory Council and on the Consultative Committee. Nine new representatives were elected – two representing artisans, two representing farmers, two representing unions, and three representing civil society.

The Beninese National Assembly devoted a day to the Compact and other USG assistance programs. Honored guest Ambassador Gayleatha B. Brown presented a summary of how the USG supports development in Benin. National Coordinator Simon Pierre Adovelande responded to the intense interest of the representatives with a detailed explanation of the Compact objectives. In an important step forward for the Compact, the host, Assembly President Mathurin Nago, outlined the importance of the National Assembly's role in developing new legislation to support access to land in rural and urban areas, an essential part of the Compact program.

### Access to Markets Project

The Port of Cotonou passed an inspection conducted by the United States Coast Guard to determine compliance with the minimum requirements of the International Ship and Port Security Facility (ISPS) Code. Security at the Port remains problematic but significant improvements were accomplished in August. Compliance with the ISPS Code is an important milestone in the Access to Markets Project.

### Access to Land Project

From October 8-17, the Access to Land Project conducted a national information campaign through ten of the twelve

departments (regional districts) of Benin. Accompanied by representatives of national and local government offices, farmers, and civil society groups, the Land Project directors held information sessions, reaching over 400 people, to inform local elected officials, civil society organizations, and local administrative offices on the Land Project's activities and the role that local institutions play in its success. Local institutions play a key role in providing information to ongoing national studies, and in communicating the benefits of formalized property rights to the population.

The activity for the expansion of formal land rights in rural areas has been launched. Through this activity, the Access to Land Project will produce rural land plans for 300 villages.

### Access to Financial Services Project

MCA-Benin signed a partnership agreement with the Interbank Monetary Group of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (Groupement Interbancaire Monétaire de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine, or GIM-UEMOA). GIM-UEMOA will work with MCA-Benin to oversee a study on the feasibility of introducing various technological solutions to improve the supply of financial services to small, medium, and micro enterprises. GIM-UEMOA is the regional institution charged with defining the regulatory and security framework for the use of electronic banking.

The National Policy for Microfinance has been finalized and is expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for adoption. Adoption of this policy is an important milestone for the Access to Financial Services Project.

### Access to Justice Project

MCA-Benin signed a Partnership Agreement with the Ministry of Justice. Through this agreement, MCA-Benin will help strengthen the capacity of the Inspection General office by providing training courses and materials. As the information needs of this office have been identified in a recent study, MCA-Benin will work with the Ministry to provide up-to-date and relevant documents and legal reference materials.

### Compact Status

Status..... Implementation, Year 1

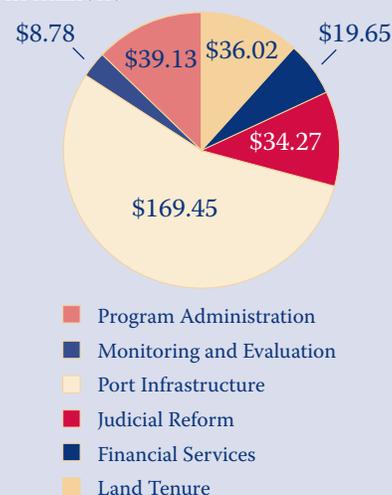
### Compact Information

Total Amount.....\$307.3 million  
Duration .....5 years  
Compact Signed ..... 2-22-2006  
Entry in to Force.....10-06-2006

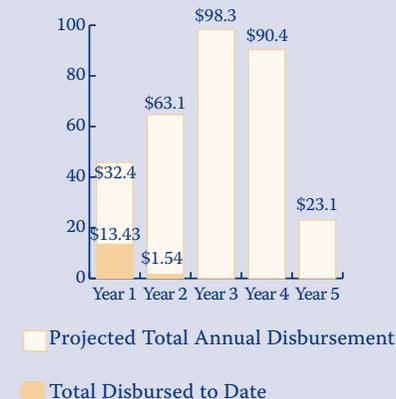
### Country Information

Population .....8,177,208\*  
GNI Per Capita..... \$510\*

### Obligations by Key Sector in millions



### Disbursement Schedule in millions



\*World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2005