

Angola and Ivory Coast have more efficient innovation systems and policies than Japan

The Global Innovation Index (2015) evaluates and ranks 141 countries by their ability to effectively implement and manage innovations for development. On a scale of 0 to 100 (High) Mauritius (39), South Africa (37), Seychelles (36), Senegal (31) and Botswana (31) lead Africa on the index. The top 3 African countries outperform both Brazil (35) and India (32). One of the pillars of innovation is strong focus on STEM education. Five African countries including Seychelles (25%) graduate a higher percentage of students in science and engineering than the UK (22%), Denmark (21%) and the USA (16%).

The Innovation Efficiency Ratio (IER) measures a country's effectiveness of innovation systems and policies – it is a ratio of innovation output over innovation input. On a scale of 0 to 1, Angola (1) has the highest IER globally and Ivory Coast (0.94), Mali (0.91), Cameroon (0.87) and Senegal (0.84) complete Africa's top 5. Based on the amount of innovation input and ignoring possible differences in the level of sophistication of innovations, these five African countries innovate more efficiently than the United States (0.77), Denmark (0.66), France (0.64) or Japan (0.45).

