

## 2- ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE POINTS

The African Internet Exchange System (AXIS) project of PIDA has been supporting Regional Economic Communities to develop regional cross-border policies and regulations to facilitate regional interconnection. The AXIS project is providing and managing the grants to support the establishment of regional internet exchange points as per the PIDA priority action plan. The project plans to award grants to ten internet exchange points in Africa to become regional internet exchange points. Following two calls for proposals issued through open tendering, internet exchange points in Gabon (Central Africa), Kenya (Eastern Africa), Nigeria (Western Africa) Rwanda (Eastern Africa), South Africa (Southern Africa) and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa) have so far been awarded grants to become regional internet exchange points. A final call for proposal to select four more IXPs will be issued in 2016.

African Union Commission  
Department of Infrastructure and Energy  
Information Society Division  
E-mail: [axis-info@africa-union.org](mailto:axis-info@africa-union.org)  
Website: [www.au.int/axis](http://www.au.int/axis)



*Keeping intra-Africa Internet Traffic Local to the Continent*



### PROJECT FINANCING

AXIS Project is co-financed by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and Government of The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. African Union Commission signed an agreement with Luxembourg Development Agency to support implementation of the project.



THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation  
and Humanitarian Affairs



European Union Africa  
Infrastructure Trust Fund



Luxembourg Agency for  
Development Cooperation



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

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# AFRICAN INTERNET EXCHANGE SYSTEM PROJECT



African Union Commission  
Department of Infrastructure and Energy  
Information Society Division



## OVERVIEW

Africa is currently paying overseas carriers to exchange “local” (continental) traffic. This is both a costly as well as an inefficient way of handling intra-country exchange of Internet traffic. It is therefore in the interests of all countries in Africa to find ways of optimizing internet traffic, to support intra-continental traffic flows and save costs and reduce latency.

The Program on Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) has highlighted the importance of establishment of Internet Exchange Points in its priority action plan. The African Internet Exchange System is an implementing project of PIDA.



## OBJECTIVE OF AXIS PROJECT:

The African Internet Exchange System Project aims to keep Africa's internet traffic local by providing capacity building, policy & regulatory support and technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), Regional Internet Exchange Points (RIXPs) and Regional Internet Carriers (RICs) in Africa



## BENEFITS OF AXIS PROJECT:

Establishment of Internet Exchange Points contributes to the following;

- Reduction of delay/latency on packets between participating Internet Exchange Point networks
- Transit Cost savings
- Increased number of new local online applications
- Increased quality of local access

In summary, Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) have direct benefits such as reduced latency, low cost and good bandwidth as a result of avoiding the data to route through upstream internet providers.

## SUMMARY STATUS OF AXIS AS AN IMPLEMENTING PROJECT OF PIDA

### 1- ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNET EXCHANGE POINTS IN AU MEMBER STATES

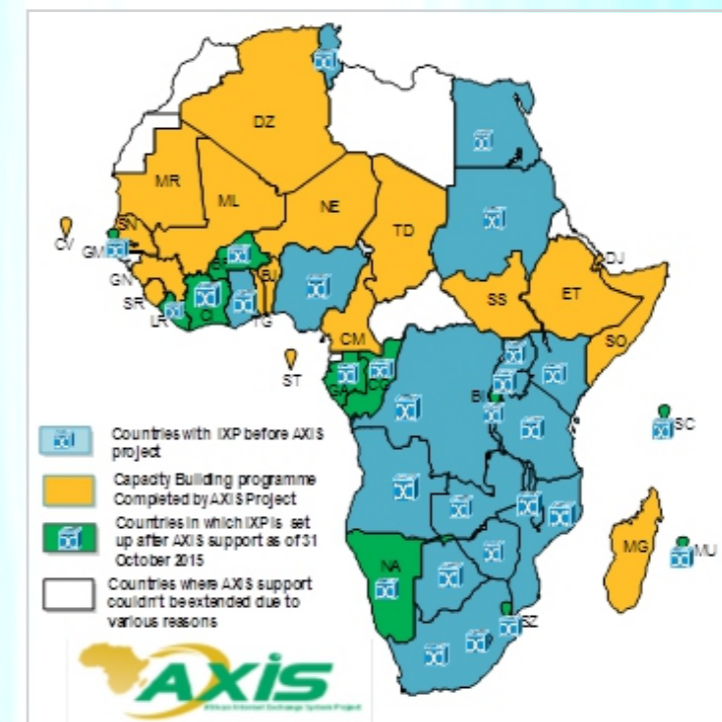
- Best Practice and technical training capacity building workshops to support the establishment of internet exchange points has been extended to the following 30 AU Member States that did not have Internet Exchange Points:
  - Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland and Togo.
- A total of 500 participants have been awarded certificates on Technical Aspects of Setting up, Operating and Administering Internet Exchange Points.
- The AXIS project has procured & donated equipment and facilitated the setting up of Internet Exchange

Points (IXPs) in Member States that demonstrated readiness.

- Following the capacity building support, the following twelve Member States have since set up their Internet Exchange Points (IXPs): Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and Swaziland.



Launching of Internet Exchange Point in Namibia



Map showing the status of IXPs in Africa.