



8. Morocco

HIGHLIGHTS



Index Performance

Total Score



Size	Domestic Mandate	Source of Funding	Governance & Disclosure
Good	Existent	Diversified	Poor

Morocco's sovereign wealth fund managed by Ithmar Capital tops the 2018 rankings. It was established in 2011, initially as a strategic tourism investment fund, and tasked with making all the tourism infrastructure investments required to enable Morocco achieve its "Vision 2020" target of becoming a top 20 global tourism destination.

A decision by the Board in 2016 to expand the fund's scope beyond tourism, and allow it to invest in all strategic sectors of the economy suddenly transformed it into a major African SWF. Its current dual mandate is to "foster development in Morocco and Africa while delivering financial performance". Although it is not designed as a stabilization fund, Ithmar does have a quasi-stabilization, quasi-stimulus mission of scaling up investments in Morocco during economic downturns.

Ithmar's investment strategy is very much partnerships-centred – within Morocco and across Africa. Its genesis was a partnership between the

Government of Morocco and the Hassan II Fund for Economic and Social Development. In 2016 it partnered the World Bank to jointly create the Green Growth Infrastructure Facility for Africa. It has partnered funds in the Gulf countries as well as sister funds in Africa including the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund, and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority on co-investment projects. It is clear that the fund will play an even greater role in the coming years in Morocco's ongoing aggressive pan-African investment and re-integration strategy.

For other African countries without oil and mineral resources, Morocco, much like Senegal and Rwanda are proof that a nation does not necessarily need commodity endowment in order to set up an SWF. But Morocco's example is also a cautionary model, because the country is a lot wealthier than the average African economy.