

Top 10 technologically advanced countries in Africa

African countries have a long road to travel to advance to the level of technological capacity common in the developed world. However, some African countries are making strides to boost their communications infrastructure, establish 'technology parks' and increase spending on research and development.

Most of this government-sponsored activity is done in conjunction with efforts to diversify economies away from dependency on commodities and towards more industrialisation. Once the groundwork has been established and the private sector accepts that a country is serious about becoming more technologically savvy, then private investment can enter to further boost technology advancement.



The Ebene Cyber Tower located in Ebene Cybercity in Port Louis, Mauritius. Construction began in 2001, with the suburb being promoted as a new information technology hub for Mauritius and as a link between African and Asian markets. Image courtesy of Jean François Koenig, Wikimedia Commons.

The *Africa Country Benchmark Report (ACBR)* for 2017 amalgamates business and economic indexes to create an inclusive and holistic view of each African country's performance. Within these sectors, performance in individual fields is also gauged. For achievement in technology, ACBR assessed performances on indexes such as the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business, the WEF's Global Competitiveness Report, Cornell University's Global Innovation Index, the WWF's Web Index and others.

Here are Africa's Top 10 technological advanced countries, according to ACBR:

#	Country	ACBR Tech Score
1	Seychelles	51.92
2	South Africa	48.61
3	Mauritius	45.17
4	Cape Verde	44.89
5	Tunisia	43.97
6	Swaziland	40.00
7	Egypt	39.13
8	Namibia	38.74
9	Botswana	37.79
10	Morocco	37.56

Technological advancement in Africa favours small, relatively affluent countries, where political stability has been achieved,

and larger countries that have a long history of industrialisation and established foreign markets for their industrial exports.

Cape Verde, Mauritius and Seychelles have established thriving economies on their islands, safeguarded from mainland warfare, refugees, terrorists and insurgencies by oceans. Under democratic governments, policies have been established to promote the information and communications technology sector, giving tax breaks and other incentives to foreign investors. Although small in population, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland enjoy the peace of the Southern Africa region and have established industrial parks and other incentives to increase their countries' technological capacities.



The Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) was incorporated to develop and operate a science and technology park to aid in diversifying the economy and help transform Botswana into a knowledge economy. Image courtesy: <http://www.bih.co.bw>.

Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia have been exporting industrial goods to the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East for decades and have succeeded in staying competitive by embracing technological advances. Their relatively affluent populations have spawned sophisticated consumers who demand the best of the latest gadgets, much of which is assembled locally. Such manufacturing requires skills training and an expanded, technologically empowered workforce.

Morocco and South Africa excel in auto manufacturing, which is particularly demanding in terms of technology. Egypt and Tunisia's widespread communications technologies were put to use during the Arab Spring revolutions that toppled dictators using social media. Sub-Saharan Africa's dictators have sought to suppress social media ever since but are unable to stem the tide of the continent's rising technological capabilities.

The following map illustrates the Top 10 and Bottom 10 tech performers in the Africa Country Benchmark Report (ACBR):



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