



PROJECT BRIEF: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT COUNCIL

A locally embedded economic-development model, piloted on Kenya's Coast, that converts opportunity pipelines into investable, job-creating outcomes across African geographies.

EDIC is a public-private economic-development model piloted on Kenya's Coast. It works with local government, business, universities, financiers and development partners to move viable projects and SME opportunities from early concept through preparation, coordination and capital mobilisation. The Coast pilot demonstrates a locally embedded operating system that can be adapted with local partners across African geographies to close the conversion gap between economic-development ideas and investable, employment-generating delivery.

The EDIC model

1 Find and focus Screen opportunities against sponsor strength, job potential and commercial readiness.	2 Prepare and structure Develop evidence, feasibility scopes, financial logic and investor materials.	3 Coordinate and unblock Convene government, business and technical partners around transaction and policy bottlenecks.	4 Mobilise and learn Connect capital, track verified progress and embed reusable tools with local partners.
---	---	---	---

Why this matters

Across African cities and regions, viable investment themes often outpace the local capacity needed to prepare them. The Kenyan Coast provides the live pilot: sustained local capacity is required to prepare credible projects, align government and private-sector actors, resolve practical policy barriers and manage the long path from feasibility to investment. EDIC provides that connective tissue across trade and value addition, tourism and MICE, industrial infrastructure, sustainable energy, logistics and the blue economy. Its methods can be adapted to each location's economic priorities, institutional partners and investor landscape.

Evidence from the Coast pilot

In the Coast pilot during 2025-26, EDIC advisers developed or advanced 9 project concepts and supported screening of a 72-opportunity regional pipeline across Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale. Two priorities, the Mombasa Convention Centre and an industrial solar mini-grid, advanced into pre-feasibility or feasibility. Air-access policy work has convened county, national and industry actors, while Technical University of Mombasa skills mapping is connecting employer demand to training priorities.

What partner capital unlocks

Funding type	What it enables
Core platform support	Local investment and policy capacity; pipeline management; partner coordination; and outcomes tracking.
Catalytic project preparation	Demand validation, feasibility, transaction structuring, technical inputs, investor materials and market sounding.
Proof and scale capital	SME and trade-platform testing, early risk-sharing structures and evidence needed to crowd in larger capital.
Co-finance and earned income	Public and private mandates, partner contributions and advisory fees that can progressively support the platform.

Jobs and replication

EDIC links investment to jobs through a clear pathway: bankable projects create direct operational roles; local supply chains create indirect work; and SME market access, skills pathways and follow-on investment create catalytic employment. The Coast pilot records project-stage evidence and distinguishes direct, indirect and catalytic jobs rather than treating early interest as a result. The core operating system is designed for application in other African geographies: a local mandate and partners, a screened pipeline, project-preparation tools, investor coordination, policy problem-solving and a results dashboard. Scaling does not mean transplanting a fixed project list: each future geography would begin with local diagnosis, identify its own economic priorities and anchor institutions, screen a focused pipeline, and use the same evidence and coordination disciplines to progress local transactions. This combination of a common operating system and locally owned priorities allows EDIC to replicate with discipline while retaining local legitimacy.