

# Legal Information and Lawyers in West Africa

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Law Via the Internet 2011

# After JuriBurkina and JuriNiger...

- \* How is legal information accessed by lawyers in the region?
  - \* How are lawyers using legal information?

# Four countries...

- \* Burkina Faso
- \* Niger
- \* Senegal
- \* Togo



# Publishing the law online...

- \* ... requires having access to the internet!
- \* But this only true for legal publishers. Producers, archivers and repositories and users of legal information must also be connected.

# Internet users

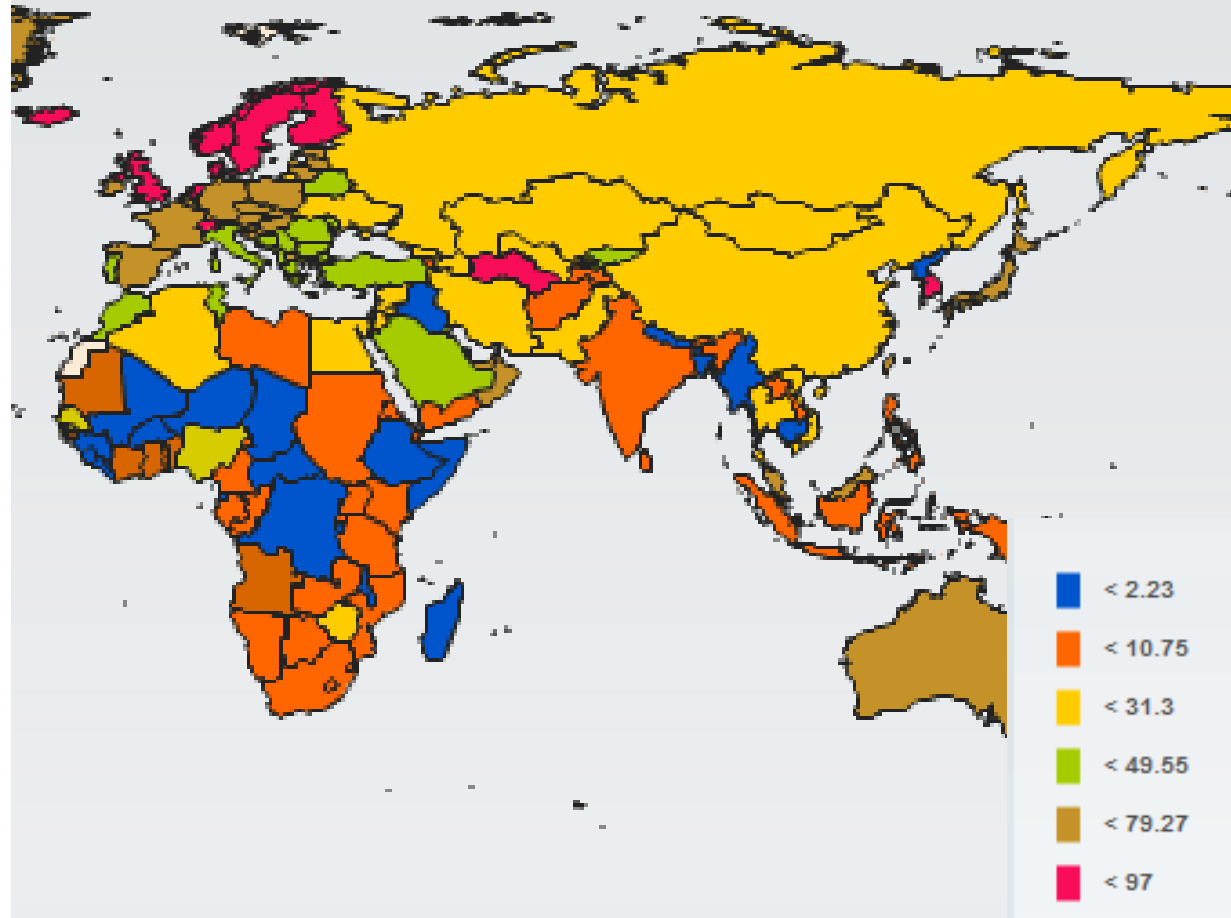
14.50 Senegal

5.38 Togo

1.13 Burkina Faso

0.76 Niger

Internet users (per 100 inhabitants) ITU 2009



# What's out there...

Site	URL	Managers/Funders
LegiBurkina	<a href="http://www.legiburkina.bf">www.legiburkina.bf</a>	Secretary General with funding from OIF and the European Union
Ministry of justice (BF)	<a href="http://www.justice.gov.bf">www.justice.gov.bf</a>	European development funds
FasoLex	<a href="http://fasolex.univ-ouaga.bf">http://fasolex.univ-ouaga.bf</a>	University of Ouagadougou with funding from the State and the European Union
JuriBurkina	<a href="http://www.juriburkina.org">www.juriburkina.org</a>	Ordre des avocats with funding from LexUM-IDRC
JuriNiger	<a href="http://www.juriniger.org">www.juriniger.org</a>	Ordre des avocats with funding from LexUM-IDRC
Government of Senegal	<a href="http://www.gouv.sn">www.gouv.sn</a>	State
Journal officiel (Senegal)	<a href="http://www.jo.gouv.sn">www.jo.gouv.sn</a>	Secretary General
Légitogo	<a href="http://www.legitogo.gouv.tg">www.legitogo.gouv.tg</a>	Ministry of justice and UNDP
OHADA	<a href="http://ohada.com">http://ohada.com</a>	With funding from InfoDev and World Bank

# More players than ever before



Site	Most recent document
LegiBurkina	--
Ministry of justice (BF)	--
FasoLex	
JuriBurkina	2007
JuriNiger	January 2010
Government of Senegal	May 2011
Journal officiel (Senegal)	September 2010
LégiTogo	2008
OHADA	August 2010



# Paper rules

- \* Libraries are of ‘poor quality’, ‘rarely updated’, ‘have too many French material, not enough national material’ and ‘finding documents is difficult’... doesn’t matter! Lawyers we met prefer accessing legal information in hard copy than going online.
- \* Firms are investing considerably in private collections

# What's wrong with online?

- \* Lack of comprehensive, up-to-date sites
- \* Unaware of available sites
- \* Limited bandwidth

# Opportunities and challenges

- \* 600 lawyers for a population of 60M+
- \* Increased number of players, but still heavy reliance on individual “champions”
- \* *Law via the SMS?*
- \* The significance of language

# Part of the sustainability puzzle

- \* Users as stakeholders
  - \* How to better involve stakeholders for increased chances of sustainability?