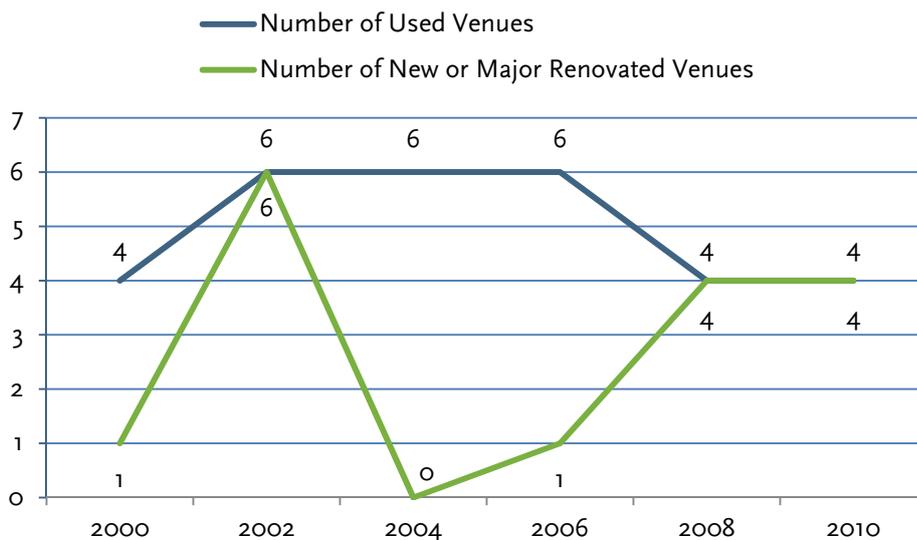


6. Africa Cup of Nations stadiums

The first African Cup of Nations (CAN) was organised in 1957 and has been held every two years since 1968. 16 teams have participated in each tournament since 1998. In 2010 the Confederation of African Football (CAF) decided to move the CAN to uneven years to avoid the event clashing with the FIFA World Cup.

Figure 6.1: Africa Cup of Nations stadiums 2000-2010



As the figure above shows, the CAN's host countries have over the last ten years tended to use four to six venues – in contrast to UEFA Euro, in which 16 teams also participate but UEFA's requirements calls for at least eight stadiums.

In the last six CAN tournaments all final venues have had a capacity over 45,000 and an average capacity of just over 58,000, which is comparable to the requirements UEFA has for the stadiums that stage the UEFA Euro final. However, the average capacity of the smallest venues used for the CAN is just 19,500 seats, which differs from UEFA's minimum requirement of 30,000 seats.

Both Tunisia and Egypt, who hosted CAN in 2004 and 2006 respectively, already had a decent number of stadiums available and did not make any major investments in new stadiums. Tunisia hosted the Mediterranean Games in 2001 and leading up to these games they constructed Stade de 7 Novembre, which after the 2011 revolution is now named Stade Olympique de Radès. The stadium also served as the final venue for CAN 2004. From the information available, only Cairo International Stadium underwent significant renovations before CAN 2006. These renovations cost nearly \$20 million.

For some of the other host countries, Mali, Ghana and Angola, it has been a different picture. New stadiums were a necessity and all three countries received assistance from China to construct the

stadiums.⁹⁹ Information regarding the six stadiums built for CAN 2002 in Mali is scant. However, it has been less problematic to obtain data on the stadiums built for CAN 2008 in Ghana and the 2010 event in Angola.

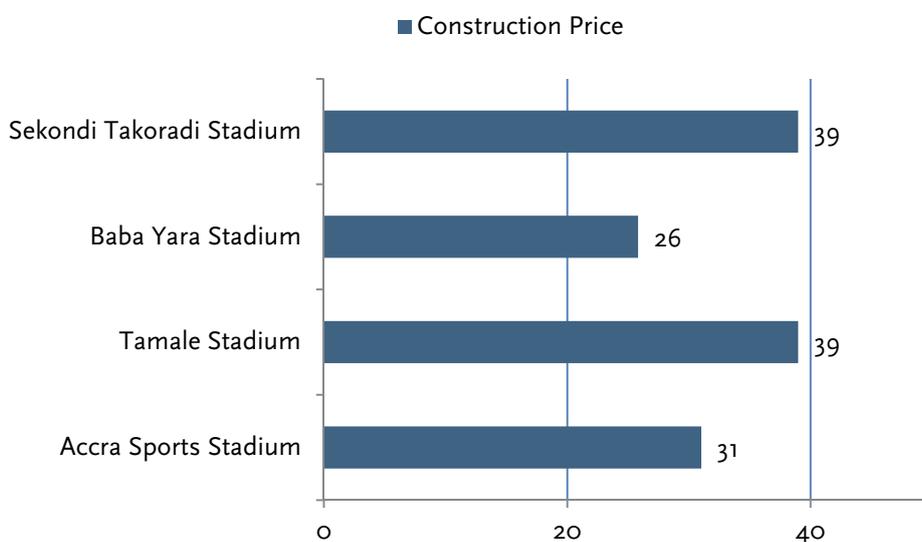
As mentioned above, China and Chinese construction companies have built stadiums for the African Cup of Nations, but they have also played a significant role in the construction of several other stadiums around Africa. In connection with aid projects throughout the continent, China built stadiums in Africa during the 1970s and 1980s, named ‘Friendship Stadiums’¹⁰⁰. The Chinese construction of stadiums in Africa stagnated during the 1990s, but after nearly a decade, China chose once again to build stadiums abroad in the context of aid projects, not just in Africa but in other parts of the world. China’s interest in constructing stadiums abroad makes it necessary to include China in this report.

Chapter 8 of the report will discuss the Chinese stadium diplomacy in more detail.

2008 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana

Two new stadiums were built for the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana, while two others underwent major renovations. As Figure 6.2 shows, Sekondi Takoradi Stadium and Tamale Stadium cost equally as much to construct, nearly \$39 million, and both of the venues have similar capacities.

Figure 6.2: Construction prices for Africa Cup of Nations 2008 stadiums (million dollars)



All prices in 2010 dollar value

⁹⁹ <http://www.theafricareport.com/index.php/201007023293023/sports/china-the-master-stadium-builder-3293023.html>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.theafricareport.com/index.php/201007023293023/sports/china-the-master-stadium-builder-3293023.html>

The stadiums were funded through a soft loan (a loan with a below-market interest rate) from China¹⁰¹ and it was the Chinese construction company Shanghai Construction Co. Ltd. that built the stadiums.¹⁰² The tender process was subject of discussion as the process was cancelled and the Chinese company was awarded the contract without a selection process.¹⁰³ The official statement from Ghana expresses that Shanghai Construction Co. Ltd was more equipped to complete the construction on time and without exceeding the budget.¹⁰⁴ But there were most likely other factors that influenced Ghana's choice to award the Chinese company the contract.

Accra Sports Stadium and Baba Yara Stadium were the two other stadiums that hosted games during 2008 CAN. Both of these stadiums were used during CAN 1978 and 2000, but underwent major renovations for the championship in 2008. The renovation costs for the two stadiums were nearly \$57 million and a Chinese company was once again awarded the contract.¹⁰⁵

It has been quite difficult to obtain information about the stadiums' subsequent attendance figures. None of them have websites and neither do most of the stadiums' anchor tenants. The ones that actually do have a homepage do not publish their attendance figures.

Neither the Ghanaian Football Association nor the anchor tenants of the stadiums have information available on their attendance figures and have not responded to our requests via e-mail. However, through desk research and reading various articles we have noticed that Tamale Stadium is not used too much extent. The Minister for Sport and Youth in Ghana admits in one of the articles that the stadium is under-utilised, but hopes that the establishment of a public-private partnership can solve the under-utilisation and generate funds to pay the stadium's maintenance costs.¹⁰⁶

The lack of attendance figures rules out calculating a World Stadium Index for the Ghanaian stadiums, and seeing as the stadiums are funded by generous loans from China it will also be difficult to establish an accurate GNI Index. But if we assume that Ghana will pay off its loans to China and the sum is constant, the GNI Index of Sekondi Takoradi Stadium and Tamale Stadium are unusually high. As Table 6.1 points out, both of the stadiums have an index of 1.22 – an index no other stadium built for a major football event has reached.

¹⁰¹ http://www.ccs.org.za/downloads/DFID_FA_Final.pdf p.40

¹⁰² <http://www.theafricareport.com/index.php/201007023293023/sports/china-the-master-stadium-builder-3293023.html>

¹⁰³ <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=225255>

¹⁰⁴ http://www.ccs.org.za/downloads/DFID_FA_Final.pdf p.40

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.theafricareport.com/index.php/201007023293023/sports/china-the-master-stadium-builder-3293023.html>

¹⁰⁶ http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=80%3Aministry-to-establish-boxing-gym-in-the-north&Itemid=171

Table 6.1: Overview of 2008 Africa Cup of Nations stadiums

| Name | Capacity | Price Per Seat | GNI Index | Ownership |
|--|----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Accra Sports Stadium, Accra (GHA) | 40,000 | \$776 | 0.48 | Public |
| Tamale Stadium, Tamale (GHA) | 20,000 | \$1,950 | 1.22 | Public |
| Baba Yara Stadium, Kumasi (GHA) | 40,500 | \$638 | 0.40 | Public |
| Sekondi Takoradi Stadium, Sekondi Takoradi (GHA) | 20,000 | \$1,950 | 1.22 | Public |
| Average | 30,125 | \$1,328 | 0.83 | - |

All prices in 2010 dollar value

The indexes for the two other Ghanaian stadiums are lower, but in comparison to the stadiums built for 2002 and 2006 FIFA World Cups and UEFA Euro 2000-2008 the indexes are high.

If, however, we take a closer look at the price per seat, the prices per seat for all four venues are unusually low, in particular Accra Sports Stadium and the Baba Yara Stadium. There have been reports suggesting that the stadiums in Ghana are poorly constructed¹⁰⁷, which has also been the case in Uganda¹⁰⁸ where China has constructed at least one stadium. This aspect will be discussed further in chapter 8.

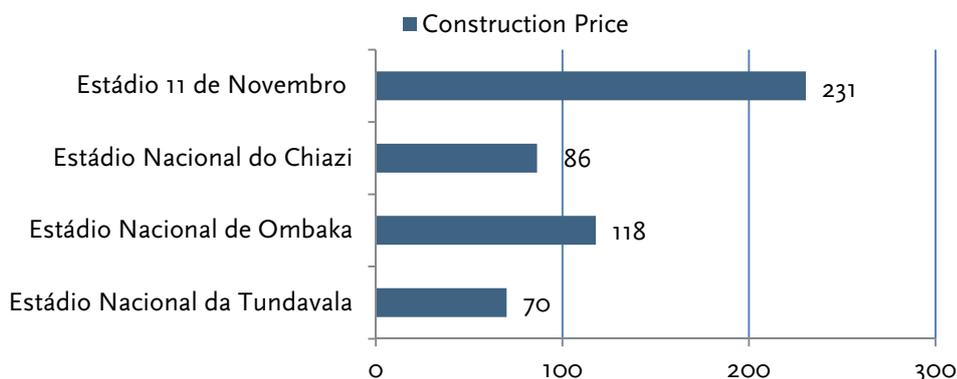
2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola

As in the example of Ghana, it has been difficult to find complete information about the stadiums in Angola, including data regarding the attendance. The official websites for the Angolan Football Association and the clubs that are available are poorly updated and do not provide any information about the number of spectators that have attended each game.

¹⁰⁷ Nuttall, I.: Kicking Off. Stadia July 2008

¹⁰⁸ http://www.aercafrica.org/documents/china_africa_relations/Uganda.pdf p.10

Figure 6.3: Construction prices for 2010 Africa Cup of Nations stadiums (million dollars)

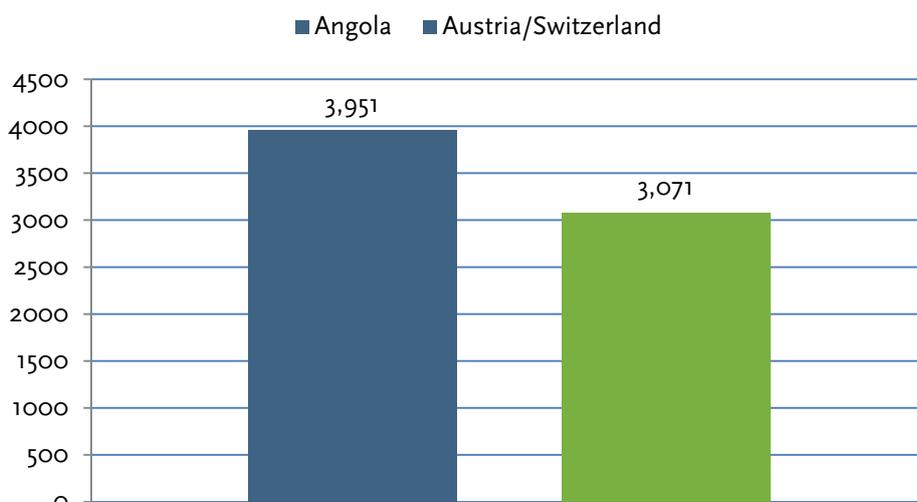


All prices in 2010 dollar value

The construction prices for the four stadiums are, however, available, and just like in Ghana, Chinese companies have constructed the stadiums. The four new stadiums in Angola cost slightly more than \$500 million to construct, which is a significantly higher amount than what Ghana through generous Chinese loans had to pay for their four stadiums. The total cost of the stadiums built for the 2010 CAN in Angola can be compared with the sums Austria and Switzerland chose to invest in stadiums for UEFA Euro 2008. A significant difference, however, is that Austria and Switzerland built five stadiums to Angola's four.

Another notable difference between the UEFA Euro 2008 stadiums and the 2010 CAN stadiums is the average price per seat. As Figure 6.5 below shows, the Angolan stadiums are more expensive per seat than the stadiums in Austria and Switzerland, and even the stadiums in Ghana. As China constructed the stadiums in both Angola and Ghana, it may be questioned why the stadiums in Angola were so much more expensive.

Figure 6.4: Average prices per seat 2010 African Cup of Nations and UEFA Euro 2008 (dollars)



All prices in 2010 dollar value

Just like in Ghana, China has funded the stadiums in Angola, which may be a methodical problem when measuring the GNI Index of the stadiums in Angola, as we do not know what China has received in exchange for the funding and the value this may have. But if we overlook the Chinese involvement, none of the stadiums in Angola built for the 2010 CAN have a GNI Index as high as Sekondi Takoradi Stadium and Tamale Stadium. However, the indexes for the Angolan stadiums are still high in comparison to a majority of the stadiums included in this study, which reflects Angola's weaker economy.

Table 6.2: Overview of the 2010 African Cup of Nations stadiums

| Name | Capacity | Price per Seat | GNI Index | Ownership |
|--|----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Estádio Nacional da Tundavala, Lubango (ANO) | 20,000 | \$3,507 | 0.65 | Public |
| Estádio Nacional de Ombaka, Benguela(ANO) | 35,000 | \$3,369 | 0.62 | Public |
| Estádio Nacional do Chiazzi, Cabinda (ANO) | 20,000 | \$4,320 | 0.80 | Public |
| Estádio 11 de Novembro, Luanda (ANO) | 50,000 | \$4,610 | 0.85 | Public |
| Average | 31,250 | \$3,951 | 0.73 | - |

All prices in 2010 dollar value

Conclusion on Africa Cup of Nations stadiums

If Ghana and Angola were to have a realistic chance of hosting the African Cup of Nations new stadiums were a necessity. There was no adequate stadium infrastructure in either of the countries before the events.

Although the two countries 'only' built or renovated four stadiums each, it is questionable whether the stadiums are going to be utilised as it is doubtful that they are suited to domestic sporting events or that a market exists for such large stadiums in both countries. As shown earlier, several stadiums in countries and markets with larger purchasing power parity have difficulties in this respect and it is likely that the same problems exist in Ghana and Angola.

Both countries' willingness to let China build their stadiums should also be questioned. What does China get in exchange? Is it a win-win situation? What will the final bill be? Who has to pay the long term maintenance and operating costs of the stadiums?