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Autore	Benjamin Nancy C. <1956->
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Altri autori (Persone)	MbayeAhmadou Aly DioplIbrahima Thione
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Outline: Characteristics of informal businesses in West Africa -- Institutional, regulatory and socio-cultural environment -- Costs and benefits of informality: productivity, living standards, and tax revenue -- Main conclusions and recommendations -- Chapter 1. The informal sector in West Africa: definition -- Chapter 2. Data sources and methods -- Chapter 3. The informal sector in west Africa: overview of economic significance and welfare effects -- Chapter 4. Large informal firms in West Africa -- Chapter 5. Characteristics of the informal sector: findings from our surveys -- Chapter 6. The institutional environment of the informal sector in West Africa -- Chapter 7. Informality and productivity -- Chapter 8. Informal trading networks in West Africa: the Mourides of Senegal/Gambia and the Yoruba of Benin/Nigeria -- Chapter 9. Government policies, smuggling and the informal sector.
Sommario/riassunto	The informal sector in West Africa has some distinctive characteristics. Informality usually connotes small and unorganized producers

operating on the fringes of the formal economy. In West African countries, however, the normal situation is to some extent reversed: a dynamic informal sector dominates the stagnant formal economy. Moreover, in these countries, small operators coexist with very large and politically well-connected informal enterprises and well-organized networks. Notwithstanding its importance, there have been relatively few systematic studies of this dual feature of the informal economy.
