



WCO - Sub-Saharan Africa Customs Modernization Programme

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WCO Headquarters

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Highlights

The WCO-Sub-Saharan Africa Customs Modernization Programme, funded by the government of Sweden, comprises four projects, namely the WCO-EAC CREATE, the WCO-SACU Connect, the WCO-WACAM and the WCO-INAMA Projects.

The Programme's annual review meeting took place on 8 and 9 June 2015 in Brussels. Erik Ringborg and Ingela Juthberg, representing the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), joined the meeting along with all Project Managers. Points of discussion were the reporting structure and progress within the Projects. Sweden welcomed the direct interaction with the Project Managers and supported continuous cooperation.

WCO-EAC-CREATE Project

The WCO-EAC Project improved its governance structure and undertook tasks which are fundamental to reach future milestones and achieve the objectives of the work plan. The Project reported on its progress and shared experiences on AEO implementation with the WCO Regional Integration Conference.

WCO-SACU-Connect Project

SACU defined a Unique Consignment Reference Structure and concluded Operation TopLiq with seizures involving a potential revenue prejudice of over ZAR 72 million. Additionally, the Project successfully held a SACU Risk Management and Enforcement debriefing on the enforcement operation.

WCO-WACAM Project

At the Conference of Directors General of West and Central African Customs Administrations in April 2015, the WCO-WACAM Project was recognized as a flagship project in supporting the region's modernization efforts.

WCO-INAMA Project

The WCO-INAMA Project successfully conducted Basic Intelligence training on illegally traded wildlife products for SADC Members. Furthermore, the WCO is developing an Institutional Assessment Tool on Enforcement of CITES.

"Since the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was adopted in 2013, the WCO has been assisting its Member administrations in the implementation of the agreed commitments through the Mercator Programme. The WCO-Sweden Programme complements the Mercator Programme efforts and is a driving force in supporting regional blocks and national administrations in Sub-Saharan Africa to implement trade facilitation measures. As the Deputy Director of the WCO Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, I am pleased to see the good progress with the WCO-Sweden Programme as it contributes to the WCO's mandate to build the capacities of Customs administrations to be more effective trade enablers. The WCO-Sweden Programme's support in relation to the roll-out of regional Authorized Economic Operator programmes or activities related to the establishment of National Committees for Trade Facilitation are particularly encouraging."
Heike Barczyk, Deputy Director of the WCO Compliance and Facilitation Directorate





WCO-EAC CREATE Project



Republic of Burundi



Kenya



Rwanda



United Republic of Tanzania



Republic of Uganda

The WCO-EAC CREATE project is further anchored in the EAC network

The WCO-EAC CREATE Project has undertaken tasks to establish a path towards implementing the approved work plan. This will ensure that the Project's objectives are met and its milestones reached. The Project has been more deeply entrenched into the regional programmes at the EAC Secretariat by ensuring that the Project work plan is not only incorporated into the EAC work plan, but also that its progress is reported through all EAC governance structures, including the Council. As part of the region's mainstreaming initiative, Single Customs Territory Business Process Experts were included in the procedure development team that re-

viewed the AEO Scheme benefits and selection criteria.

On 8 and 9 June 2015, the Project presented the 2014 Project performance report, 2015 work plan and an outlook on 2016 initiatives to the development partner Sida at WCO Headquarters.

Additionally, the Project held a small Steering Committee meeting in Brussels during the 2015 Council Sessions. During the Project steering committee meeting, the EAC Director of Customs, Mr. Kenneth Bagamuhunda, emphasized that the WCO-EAC Project will indeed immensely enhance the regions inter-regional trade as

well as the EAC's regional integration agenda by adding to the achievements made by the Single Customs Territory.

The Project Manager presented WCO-EAC AEO Project experiences at the WCO Regional Integration Conference. The information exchange was highly appreciated by the WCO and such EAC experiences will be incorporated into future WCO initiatives concerning the AEO scheme.



"Through the funding of Sida and expert support from the WCO, the second phase of the WCO-EAC Project will enhance regional compliance with trade practices and deepen collaboration with all stakeholders to enhance not only the intra-trade between EAC countries but also to expand export trade with other regional blocks based on mutual agreement. In order to provide the legal mechanism of the AEO scheme, the EAC enacted regulations to guide the operations of the scheme. The roll-out of the AEO scheme in the region will therefore further enhance the gains made in the implementation of the Single Customs Territory and hence our efforts to ensure that the project is synchronized within the existing SCT framework. It is my desire that the EAC will become a role model in implementing a regional AEO." - Kenneth Bagamuhunda, Director of Customs, East African Community.

Coming up next...

The next activities will entail essential tasks leading to the regional roll-out of the AEO scheme in EAC Member States. This includes the drafting of the Regional AEO Procedures Manual by a team of experts

from the region before it is validated by an expert from the WCO. Awarding regional recognition to compliant AEO companies will commence within the next few months, and baseline data, which until

now has not fully been collected, will be gathered from the region in order to update the project logframe. Additionally, a stakeholder consultation on the reviewed AEO scheme is planned.



SWEDEN



Botswana



Lesotho



Namibia



South Africa



Swaziland

SACU defines a Unique Consignment Reference Structure and concludes Operation TopLiq with seizures involving a potential revenue prejudice of over ZAR 79 million



SACU Team of IT Experts and Customs Experts responsible for the development of the SACU Unique Consignment Reference Structure

SACU Member States continue to benefit from the support of the WCO-SACU Connect Project, funded by the government of Sweden. In May 2015 the project convened IT Experts together with Customs Procedures Experts at Ezulwini in Swaziland, to draft the SACU Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) Structure. The purpose of the SACU UCR is to link export and import declarations

using a common reference, enabling data exchange, facilitating audits for revenue sharing and trade within the SACU region. The UCR will further enable and provide a basis for single window systems, one-stop-borders and preferred trader initiatives. The draft SACU UCR Structure has been submitted to the project Steering Committee for approval.

In June 2015, the Project successfully convened a meeting of SACU Risk Management and Enforcement Experts from Member States in Johannesburg, South Africa for a debriefing on an enforcement operation focusing on tobacco and liquor. This operation was named TopLiq and ran from

November 2014 until March 2015. Highlights of the operation include: 14 arrests for smuggling of illicit products, mainly cigarettes and tobacco; a total of 9,485,600 cigarettes amounting to 9,400 master cases was detected and seized across participating Member administrations; and the value of the seizures is in excess of ZAR 9 million with a potential revenue prejudice of over ZAR 79 million. Trends and concealment methods have been identified. A detailed publication on Operation TopLiq will be issued by the SACU Secretariat in July 2015.



SACU Team of Risk Management and Enforcement Experts responsible for the Operation TopLiq debrief

Coming up next...

As part of the efforts to ensure alignment within SACU Members concentrating on Customs Risk Management and Enforcement, work has commenced on a robust Risk Management and Enforcement Strategy for the region. This strategy is meant to provide a framework for risk management and enforcement activities in the region. It will also assist Member States to align their national risk manage-

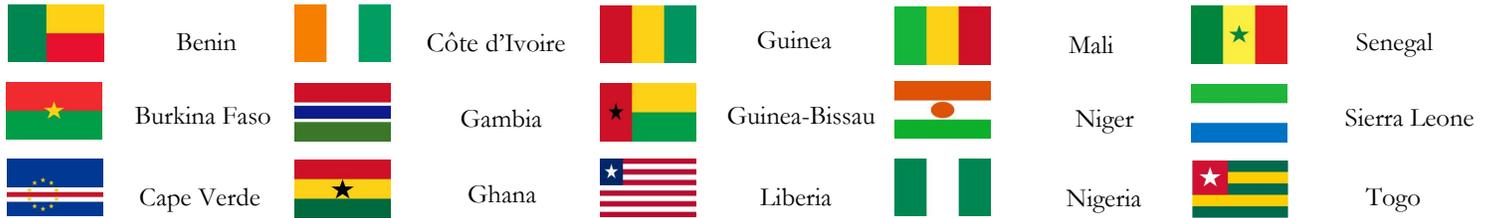
ment and enforcement initiatives with regional ambitions. The first workshop is scheduled for 6 to 10 July 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Other events include SACU Time Release Study training, SACU MRA second reading and development of a legal instrument for information exchange, SACU Import/Export Utility Block development,

assessment of current SACU Customs draft laws, and development of a SACU Preferred Trader Utility Block.



WCO– WACAM Project



The WCO–WACAM Project is recognized as a flagship project in supporting modernization efforts in West and Central Africa



Participants at the HRM mission in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

At the Regional Conference of Directors General of West and Central Africa Customs held in April 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria, DGs applauded the WACAM Project Phase I achievements and welcomed Phase II. It was recognized that the WACAM Project is a flagship modernization project for the region and DGs encouraged the efforts to be replicated in Central Africa. The WACAM Project supports the development of a regional pool of Human Resource Management (HRM) experts. As part of this support, a regional workshop was carried out in May in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The focus was on building capacities of participating Member administrations in the development of HRM tools (eg. job catalogue, competency framework, etc.) for application of a competency based HRM approach. The workshop benefited 21 participants from 7 West and Central African countries as well as from the Regional Office for Capacity Building based in Abidjan.

As a follow up to Phase I, national support was provided to Gambia and Burkina Faso. In April, Gambia benefitted from a train-the-trainer event on CV sifting and conducting

STARR (situation, task, result and review) interviews. The mission to Burkina Faso revolved around KSA (knowledge, skills and attitudes) mapping, including the evaluation of competency of pilot sites (eg. Ouagadougou airport).

In May, the WACAM Project conducted a support mission to Ghana for Strategic Planning. The assistance built on the Strategic Plan developed by the organization with assistance from the IMF and other partners. Overall, the GRA demonstrated enhanced ability in the field of monitoring and evaluation.

“The ROCB in West and Central Africa was pleased to see that the WACAM Project Phase I was meeting the regional priorities and needs identified in the regional Strategic Plan for West and Central Africa. Thanks to the Project’s support, the ROCB could see tangible results and real progress in the fields of HRM and Stakeholder Engagement in administrations that benefitted from the WACAM Project at the national level. The ROCB welcomes Phase II of the WACAM Project and reiterates its support for a successful delivery of Phase II as the synergies between the regional modernization priorities / efforts and the WACAM project are evident..- Souleymane Sangare, Director of the ROCB West and Central Africa



Coming up next...

As part of the Donor Conference taking place in July in Cameroon, results of the WACAM Project Phase I will be discussed. Additionally, national support to Gambia is planned

concerning HRM. The WACAM Project has further planned national support to Cape Verde in the field of Stakeholder Engagement with the implementation of a National

Committee for Trade Facilitation in line with Article 23 (2) of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (WTO TFA).

WCO– INAMA Project



The WCO-INAMA Project successfully conducts Basic Intelligence training on illegally traded wildlife products for SADC Members

In the framework of the INAMA Project, Basic Intelligence training for SADC Members was conducted in Maputo, hosted by the Mozambique Revenue Authority with the support of the RILO-ESA. Two training sessions were conducted from 13 to 24 April 2015. The main objective of the training was to support Members' endeavours to modernize their risk management practices by building an intelligence capability within their administration. Specific focus was on illegally traded wildlife products. More than 25 participants from WCO Members took part in the training.

Additionally, the WCO is developing an Institutional Assessment Tool on Enforcement of CITES. Through this tool, Customs administrations will have an instrument to measure their main needs in terms of capacity building on CITES enforcement. It will also provide them with targets to be achieved in their practices to constantly improve their organizational capacity to deal with enforcement. This tool builds on the WCO Diagnostic Framework and the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with the support of the International Consortium on Combating

Wildlife Crime (ICWC). This activity is funded by the US Department of State.

Furthermore, the WCO organized an international exercise on "Controlled Deliveries of Illegally Traded Wildlife Products". As part of this exercise, the South African Customs Administration and the Kenya Customs Services Department hosted delegations from China Customs. The exercise was developed in order to improve cooperation between the target administrations in joint operations aiming to fight the illegal trade of wildlife products. This activity was funded by the CITES Secretariat.



First group of participants at the WCO-INAMA Basic Intelligence training



"The USAID funded initiative Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (Wildlife TRAPS) Project aims to (1) improve understanding of the status of and trends in trans-continental illegal wildlife trade, with a focus on trade routes for threatened species trafficked between Africa and Asia; (2) increase international collaborations around actions to reduce and control illegal wildlife trade between Africa and Asia; and (3) identify, inform and facilitate the efforts of national government and inter-governmental, NGOs and private sector collaborators affected by illegal wildlife trafficking in implementing effective strategies to combat it. The Wildlife TRAPS Project provides a natural synergy with the INAMA Project in its effort to build national and regional enforcement capacity of CITES and strengthen collaboration between Customs officials in Africa and Asia." – Nick Ahlers TRAFFIC-Wildlife TRAPS Project Leader

Coming up next...

In July 2015, Kenya Customs Service will host Basic Intelligence training. The main objective will be supporting WCO Members' endeavours to modernize risk management practices by building intelli-

gence capability within their administrations, focusing on illegally traded wildlife products. In addition, in September 2015 the "WCO INAMA Institutional Assessment Workshop" will be held in Malawi.

Lastly, two curricula will be developed on Advanced Intelligence training on CITES as well as Operations Planning on CITES enforcement.

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Upcoming activities

WCO-EAC CREATE Project		WCO-SACU Connect Project		WCO-WACAM Project		WCO- INAMA Project	
July-Sep	Drafting of Regional AEO Procedures Manual	July	SACU Risk Management and Enforcement Strategy in South Africa	July	Donor conference in Cameroon	July	Basic Intelligence Training in Kenya
July-Sep	Awarding recognition to compliant AEO companies	July	SACU Time Release Study Training in South Africa	July	National on-site support to Gambia (HRM) and Cape Verde (Stakeholder Engage-	Sep	WCO-INAMA Institutional Assessment in Malawi
Sep	Reviewing the AEO Scheme	July	SACU MRA Second Reading and Development of a legal instrument for Information Exchange in Botswana	Aug	National on-site support to Senegal, Gabon and Cameroon on HRM.	July - Sep	Development of "Advanced Intelligence Training" and "Operations Planning on enforcement" curricula
		July	SACU Import/Export Utility Block Development in South Africa	July - Sep	Development of Strategic Management Workshop Material		