

The SACU-WCO Customs Development Programme

The SACU-WCO Customs Development Programme drive towards deeper integration in the region.

In 2009, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) launched a 3 year Customs modernization programme in an endeavour to deepen regional integration and facilitate trade through the adoption of common regional customs policies and procedures. The programme rests on three pillars enshrined in the SACU Customs Policy Framework; namely, trade facilitation, economic protection, border controls and protection of society.

Of paramount importance is the development and adoption of common and harmonized customs policies in the region as these will set the stage and guide implementation of the immediate and long term SACU Customs modernization agenda. This policies focus on the areas of Risk Management, Trade Partnerships, Standard Operating Procedures, IT Connectivity and Legislation.

The work on the development of regional Policies commenced in 2009 and the first draft was completed in 2010. In an attempt to ensure that the regional policies reflect the needs and priorities of both the governments of SACU countries and the trading community, the Project team embarked on national stakeholder consultations in April 2011, where workshops are being held with various stakeholders, particularly the private sector, in Member States. This provides an opportunity for the private sector to provide inputs into the draft policies to ensure that the policies cater for their trade facilitation needs and contribute to improved competitiveness. The stakeholder workshops also provide an opportunity to strengthen dialogue between SACU and the private sector with a view to promote regional integration and economic development. The workshops will be taking place during the months of April and May 2011 and will be followed by submission of the draft policies to SACU institutions for endorsement. Two workshops have already been held in Lesotho and Botswana, with workshops in Swaziland, Namibia and South Africa scheduled for May 2011.

Implementation of Trade Partnerships, Risk Management and IT Connectivity projects are also set to commence in May and June, with the first meetings of the project teams planned. This will also examine work done under the Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC)¹ initiative as the SACU Secretariat and the TKC Secretariat, together with their Member States, seek to collaborate on areas of common interests. The collaboration is meant to reduce duplication of activities in the region and to ensure that resources are utilized optimally.

Our Partners



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¹ Trans Kalahari Corridor is made up of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, all of which are also Members of SACU.



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