



WCO - Sub - Saharan Africa Customs Modernization Programme

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Highlights

The WCO– Sub– Saharan African 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.

Following the delivery of Phase I, 2008– 2014, the WCO is pleased to announce that all projects entered Phase II from 2014– 2018.

In their totality, the projects support regional Customs Unions in Africa in their mission to facilitate trade without compromising the security of their country and the safety of their citizens.

WCO - EAC – CREATE Project

The WCO- EAC Project held its 1st Steering Committee meeting of the year and officially announces its extension to the 2nd phase which involves more external private sector and other relevant external stakeholders.

WCO – SACU Connect Project

The WCO– SACU Connect Steering Committee met in Johannesburg and saluted the participation of SACU Executive Secretary at this meeting.

WCO - WACAM Project

External evaluators credited the WCO- WACAM Project Phase I as having laid out the foundation for sustainable results in key areas.

WCO - INAMA Project

The WCO– INAMA Project successfully delivered a workshop on “Controlled Deliveries of Illegally Traded Wildlife Products” in its efforts to build member administration capacities to combat wildlife crime.

“The close partnership between the WCO and Sweden over the past six years has yielded concrete results. The support from Sweden has enabled the WCO to work closely with three Customs Unions in Sub-Saharan Africa, covering 25 countries, in designing and implementing needs-based solutions. These focused on enhancing regional economic integration and covered issues ranging from regional Customs policies to Customs-to-Business partnership programs. This was extended to also support countries in their efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. The partnership between the WCO and Sweden was renewed in 2014 and will enable the WCO to continue its support to deepen and institutionalize changes.” - Erich Kiek, Director of the Capacity Building Directorate WCO





WCO– EAC CREATE Project



Republic of Burundi



Kenya



Rwanda



United Republic of Tanzania



Republic of Uganda

“Sweden is a small trade-dependent nation. Our support to WCO for trade facilitation and capacity building in Africa is grounded in the understanding that trade and regional economic integration, coupled with necessary domestic policies, can be an important vehicle out of poverty and into inclusive growth” - Erik Ringborg, Programme Manager for Trade and Development, Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi

WCO–EAC CREATE project announces second phase to support EAC countries in adapting to the changing trade environment

The WCO– EAC– Steering Committee was held on 4th - 5th March 2015 in Tanzania. Participants have agreed to focus efforts of projects to support their member administrations with the roll– out of the regional Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programme.

...the (CREATE) project also provides an opportunity to further enhance regional integration and bring development closer to the people of East Africa.
- EAC Secretariat

In the past, the EAC has demonstrated great commitment to closer integration in the region. The region has recently launched the EAC Single Customs Territory (SCT) and identified the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as a priority.

Building on the achievements of Phase I that saw regional Pilot AEOs reduce their cost of doing business, the project embarks on

Phase II to expand the trading community.

With this in mind, the WCO–CREATE Project Phase II is even more relevant as it will enable the region to better facilitate trade and become more integrated.

In 2015, the project’s efforts will particularly focus on supporting the region with the development of a regional AEO procedure manual as well as updating the AEO regional scheme in terms of criteria and benefits to better reflect the regional SCT and global WTO– TFA realities.

This is perceived as a step forward towards closer integration in the region. The EAC Secretariat as well as Mr. Erich Kieck, WCO Director Capacity Building

stated the added value of the project not only for customs but also for integration in the region.

On his part, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Deputy-Commissioner for Customs, Dr. Patrick Mugoya, who chaired the steering committee meeting, was optimistic that the project will enhance trade facilitation in the region and increase the involvement of stakeholders and other cross-border regulatory agencies in decision-making as far as international trade is concerned.

The WCO-EAC CREATE project will run until December 2018.

Coming up next...

Upcoming activities within the WCO– CREATE Project revolve around the roll– out of the AEO programme, funded by Sweden. In order to do so, in the upcoming quarter, activities are aimed at maintaining as well as expanding the regional AEO scheme.

In order to do so the compliant regional pilot AEOs will be awarded full AEO status while the regional working group will need to discuss the regional AEO scheme and define the regional AEO framework.

By the end of the year it is expected that the EAC secretariat

and the EAC member administrations have endorsed both the regional AEO manual and scheme. In parallel, the project will aim to develop a diagnostic tool to assess the Administrations’ capacity to administer the regional AEO programme.



WCO– EAC– SC meeting in Dar Es Salaam





Botswana



Lesotho



Namibia



South Africa



Swaziland

WCO–SACU Connect Project recognized as an enabler to regional trade facilitation

The WCO—SACU Connect project, extended to achieve regional integration through increased information exchange, Preferred Trader Programme and Regional Risk Management and Enforcement.

On the 10th and 11th of March 2015 the WCO—SACU Connect Steering Committee met in Johannesburg, South Africa to identify regional priorities and challenges and to develop a project roadmap. Consequently, the Steering Committee indicated that the project efforts will focus on IT Connectivity, Legislative Reform, Enforcement, Risk Management and the roll-out of a regional Preferred Trader Programme.

Key outcomes for 2015 include a streamlined framework for regional information exchange, adequate legal provisions for regional information exchange, the Preferred Trader Programme and a defined framework for Regional Risk Management and Enforcement to safeguard the integrity of the Common External Tariff (CET).

The meeting marked a special occasion as for the first time in the history of the project, the SACU Secretariat Executive Secretary, Ms. Paulina Elago, participated in the Steering Committee meeting. In her remarks, Ms Elago noted that the WCO-SACU CONNECT Project is a flagship project for the region as it contributes to the modernisation of customs and the enhancement of

trade facilitation and regional integration.

The chairperson of the Steering Committee Mr Bevan Simataa, Commissioner-Customs of Namibia, together with the Director for Capacity Building at the WCO Secretariat, Mr Erich Kieck, welcomed the presence of the Executive Secretary and emphasized the importance streamlining the regional trade initiatives.

...the WCO-SACU CONNECT Project is a flagship project for the region as it contributes to the modernisation of customs and the enhancement of trade facilitation and regional integration
- SACU Secretariat Executive Secretary, Ms. Paulina Elago

Coming up next...

In line with the WCO– SACU Project’s objectives, in the upcoming months, a draft SACU Preferred Trader Mutual Recognition Procedure Manual will be developed. Throughout the year this Manual will be finalized and published.

Further, a debriefing workshop on the regional enforcement

operation “TopLiq” will be conducted. Operation “TopLiq” aimed to combat illicit flows of tobacco and liquor products. Goals are to identify capacity building needs and operation “TopLiq” results.

The regional legal expert working group will meet to draft a regional legal framework that

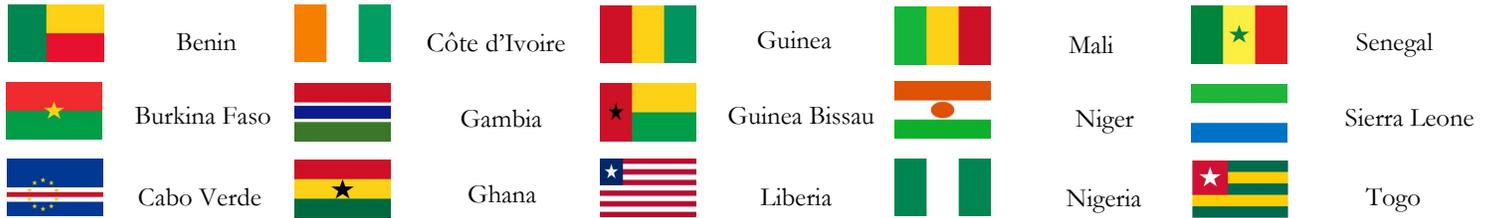
will enable information exchange . Furthermore activities related to the development of a SACU IT utility block to facilitate regional connectivity will be carried out.



Participants of the 13th WCO—SACU Steering Committee Meeting in Johannesburg



WCO– WACAM Project



Continuation of WCO– WACAM Project into Phase II after successful finalization of Phase I

Following the successful completion of the WCO- WACAM Project's first phase, Sweden has agreed to continue the Project with Phase II until 2018.

The WCO and its West African counterparts under the WACAM Project have highlighted the importance for the WACAM Project Phase II to continue and build on capacity-building efforts in the region.

From the 26th to the 28th of November 2014, the WCO together with delegates from the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Secretariat, WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) Abidjan, WCO Regional Training Centre (RTC)-Abuja and 11 West African Member- Administrations met in Banjul, Gambia to mark the successful finalization of Phase I of the WACAM Project. The workshop was used to review the results achieved, identify the lessons learned and discuss the way forward in Phase II.

During the meeting , the Gambia Revenue Authority and the customs administration of Burkina Faso was identified as the regional champions in the field of Human Resource Management modernization with Ghana and Cape Verde for Stakeholder Engagement.

The identification of regional leaders not only enhances the regional network but also demonstrates progressive ownership of the program by the region.

The final evaluation especially highlighted the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of Phase I of the project while recognizing

that the foundations for sustainable results were laid out.

Keeping the successes as well as recommendations and lessons learned in mind, the WCO- WACAM Project is ready to begin Phase II to further enhance Customs Administrations' capacities in the ECOWAS region. Building on Phase I, the areas will be Human Resource Management, Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Management.



Participants Regional meeting at Banjul

Coming up next...

The WCO- WACAM Project continues with Phase II after successful completion of Phase I.

Phase II focuses on the capacity of identified regional leaders in their respective fields. This is done to develop regional autonomy in these fields and increase the regional support network.

In April, Human Resource Man-

agement (HRM) support to Burkina Faso and Gambia is planned. Further, a regional workshop is planned in May to support the region with the establishment of a regional pool of HRM experts.

In May/ June support will be provided to Cape Verde in their efforts to engage stakeholders on

the implementation of the WTO TFA. Finally the WCO– WACAM Project will provide initial support to the Ghana Revenue Authority on their initiatives to review their strategic plan and overtake the functions commonly performed by destination inspection companies.



WCO– INAMA Project



“Wildlife trafficking has become one of the most profitable criminal activities globally, estimated in a range of a multi-billion dollar business, which attracts transnational organised crime networks [...]. The only way to fight it is to unite all the resources by enhancing inter-agency cooperation and exchange of information [...], provide the necessary legislative basis for Customs authorities to tackle this crime appropriately, and deliver specialised training to enhance capacities of the officers on the ground”. - Leigh Winchell, WCO Deputy Director of Compliance and Facilitation Directorate. The government of Sweden, the government of the United States, the GIZ and CITES jointly sponsor the INAMA Project. The INAMA Project is set out to build Customs Administrations’ capacity to jointly combat wildlife crime.

The INAMA Project aims to support Customs Administrations to combat illegal wildlife crime

Through the development of capacity building material and the organization of workshops and training followed by operations, the INAMA– Project continuously connects countries in the combat against Wildlife crime.

The WCO INAMA Project focuses on strengthening the enforcement and intelligence capacity of Customs administrations in Sub-Saharan Africa, while focusing on the illegal trade in wildlife (fauna and flora) and in particular in CITES listed species.

The project which effectively started in October 2014 consists of three main components namely Institutional Assessment; Intelligence and Enforcement.

The current WCO INAMA project is a multi-donor funded project, supported by the US Department of State, the government of Sweden, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the CITES Secretariat.

One of the INAMA Project’s first activities took place at the end of January in Bangkok, Thailand. The activities consisted of a workshop on "Controlled Deliveries of Illegally Traded Wildlife Products" and focused on the exchange of best practices.



The “Controlled Deliveries of Illegally Traded Wildlife Products” in Bangkok

Coming up next...

In April 2015, the INAMA Project will hold two workshops on Basic Intelligence Training in Mozambique. Beneficiary countries are members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The project’s efforts will also focus on the development of an institutional assessment tool that

will look into customs administration’s capacity to comply to the CITES convention.

The project will endeavor to develop a curriculum for advanced intelligence training in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. The training will be delivered in the second half of the year.

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Upcoming activities

WCO-EAC CREATE Project		WCO-SACU Connect Project		WCO-WACAM Project		WCO– INAMA Project	
Apr - Jun	Maintain and expand the regional AEO scheme	May	Workshop to debrief on the operation TopLiq	Apr	HRM support to Burkina Faso & Gambia	Apr	WCO– INAMA Basic intelligence Training SADC members
Jun - Sep	Finalize the regional AEO scheme in terms of criteria and benefits	Jun	Two regional workshops developing SACU set of Utility Block for regional connectivity	Apr	Building of regional HRM experts	Apr - Jun	Develop institutional assessment tool on enforcement of CITES
				May - Jun	Stakeholder Engagement support to Cape Verde and Ghana	May	WCO– INAMA Basic intelligence Training SADC non- members