



World Customs Organization
East and Southern Africa Region

WCO ESA ROCB

HALF YEAR REPORT

2018-2019

Presented to

29th Regional Steering Group (RSG)

7th – 9th November, 2018



WCO ESA ROCB

HALF YEAR REPORT

2018- 2019

Presented to

29th Regional Steering Group (RSG)

7th – 9th November, 2018



Venue: Monomotapa Hotel

City: Harare, Zimbabwe

Host: Zimbabwe Revenue Authority

© **WCO ESA ROCB**

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transcribed, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

World Customs Organization

East and Southern Africa
Regional Office for Capacity Building,
Corporate Business Centre,
9th Floor, Elgon Road Upperhill
P. O. Box 50581 - 00200 Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel +254 709 011 615

Email: larry.liza@wcoesarocb.org

rocb@wcoesarocb.org

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/wcoesarocb>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wcoesarocb>

Website: www.wcoesarocb.org

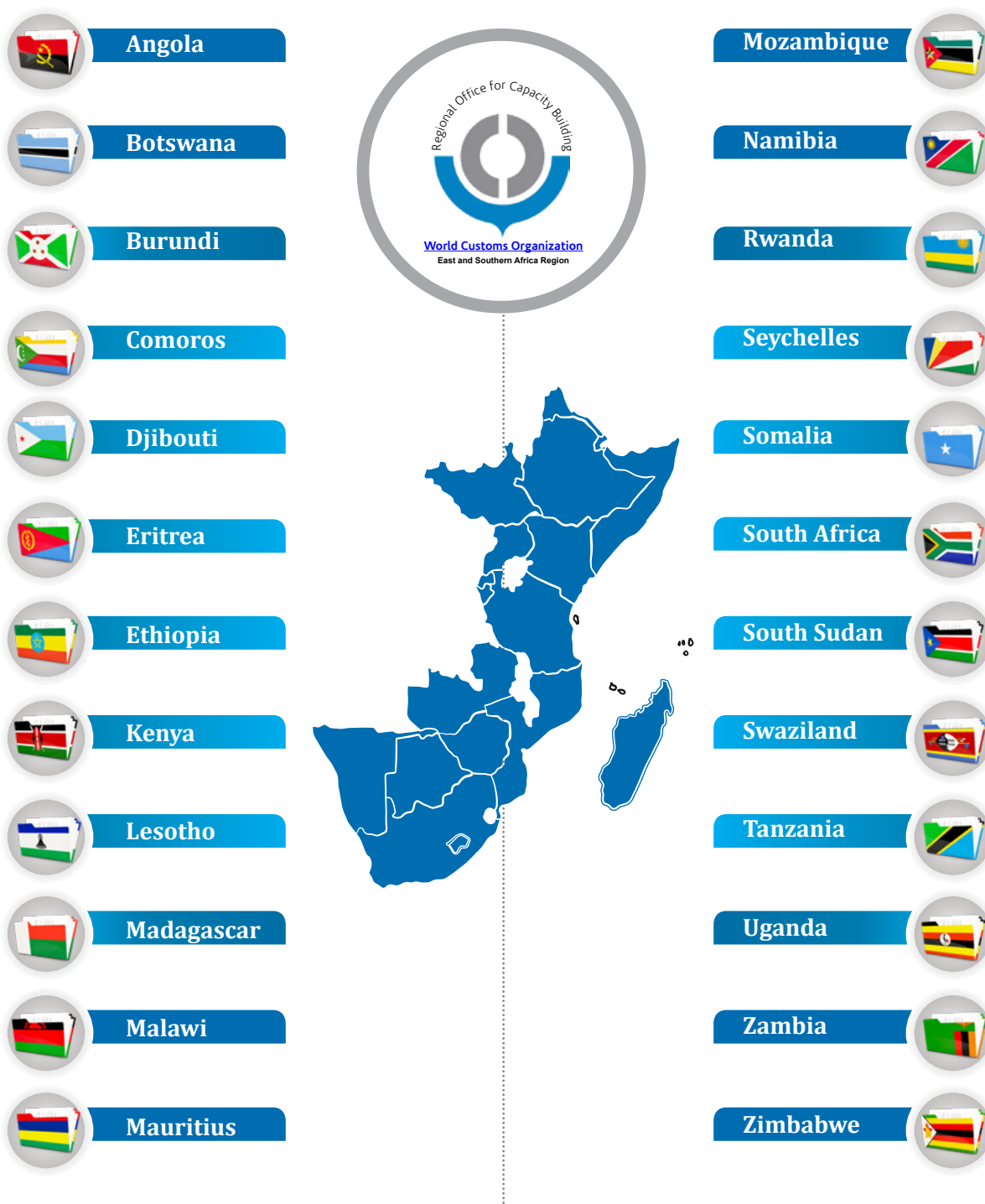
Contents

Background	1
Introduction.....	4
ROCB Staff Establishment.....	6
Regional Training Centres (RTC).....	9
Ongoing Programmes/Projects in ESA.....	10
Status of the Decisions of the 23 Rd Governing Council.....	10
Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan.....	15
Strategic Objective 1: Promote Growth in Intra – Regional Trade	15
Strategic Objective 2: Promote Fair and Efficient Revenue Mobilization.	20
Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen Intra – Regional Compliance and Enforcement.....	21
Strategic Objective 4: Enhance Integrity and Professionalism in Human Capital	24
Conclusion	30
ROCB Contacts	31

BACKGROUND

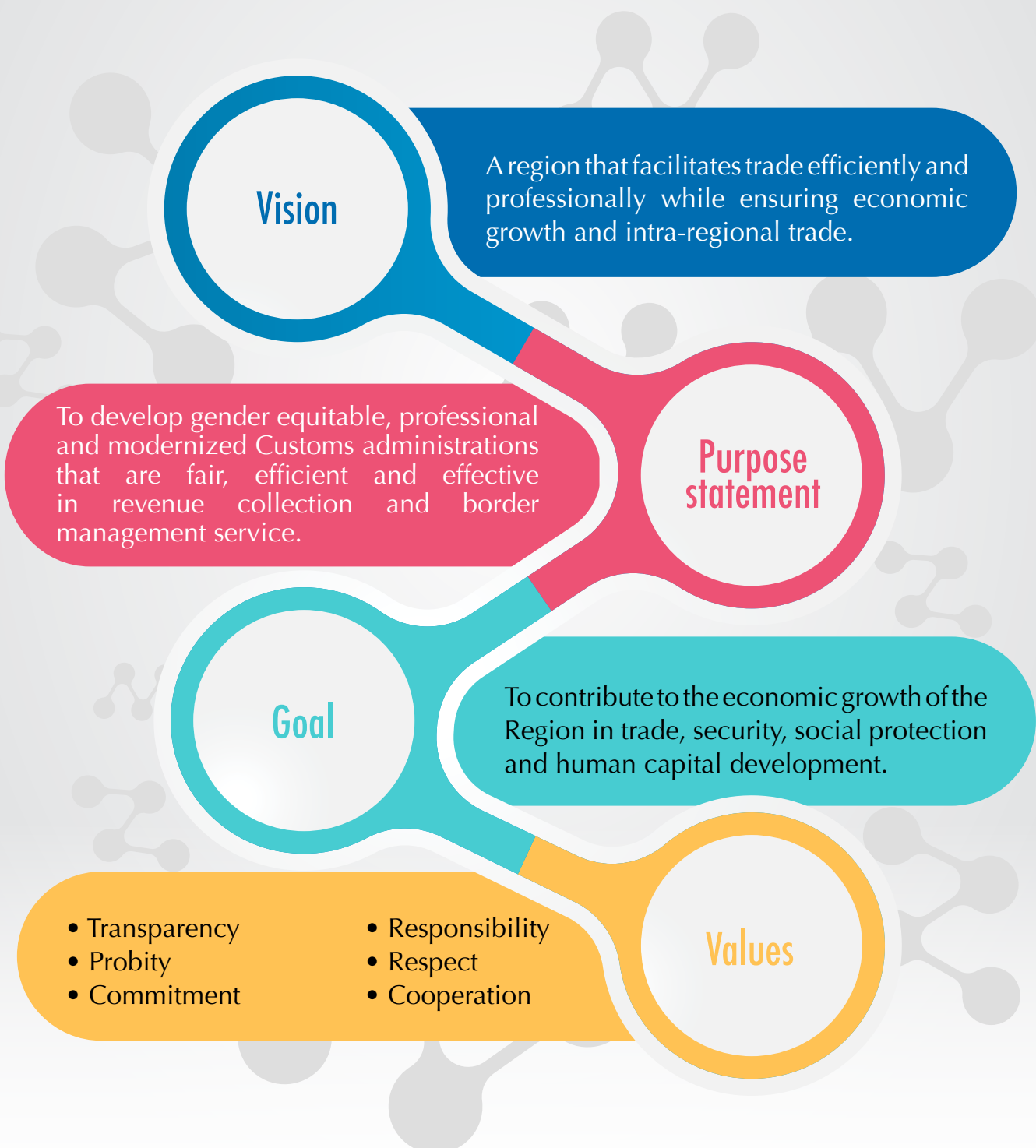
Membership

The WCO East and Southern Africa Region consist of 24 Member Countries;



Abbreviations / Acronyms

AEO	Authorised Economic Operator
CBM	Coordinated Border Management
CCF – Japan	Customs Cooperation Fund - Japan
CCF – Korea	Customs Cooperation Fund - Korea
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
DfID	Department for International Development, UK
CG	Governing Council
EAC	East African Community
ESA	East and Southern Africa
HS	Harmonized System
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MC	Management Committee (of the ESA region)
PICARD	Partnerships in Customs Academic Research and Development
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RILO	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office
RJCC	Regional Joint Coordinating Committee
RKC	Revised Kyoto Convention
ROCB	Regional Office for Capacity Building
RSG	Regional Steering Group
RTC	Regional Training Centre
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNECA	United Nations Commission for Africa
WCO	World Customs Organization
SACU	South African Customs Union



INTRODUCTION

This is the Half Year Report for the period 2018/2019 of the World Customs Organization, East and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building.

Presentation of the Report

We are introducing a new reporting format that is simple, concise and easy to read as well as navigate. This is expected to provide a path to better understanding of the region as we work towards continually improving our reporting and the delivery of our services to you

You may recall that the last Governing Council, meeting in Rwanda last May, the Vice Chair's highlighted the importance of the ROCB providing the Governing Council with data to enable Members make informed decisions. He urged us to focus on Projects, Revenue Performance and Mobilization, Baseline Statistics for the four strategic objectives, intra-regional trade levels, exports, imports etc. and Risk Management. We will continue to work on these as the seasons go by.

We take this opportunity to thank Rwanda for their wonderful hosting of the 23rd Governing Council, alongside the Regional Steering Group meeting and the Regional Training Centres (RTC) Heads meeting in Kigali in April/May.

This report is presented for discussions by the 29th Regional Steering Group (RSG) and reports on among other matters; the results of the new approach taken for reporting, the activities of the ROCB during the period under consideration (May 2018 to October 2018), the status of the decisions of the Governing Council and the half year Financial Statements of the ROCB. The Financial Statements will be reviewed by the Region's Finance and Governance Committee (FGC) in their meeting hosted by the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 5th and 6th November, 2018.

Key to note during this period is that the new Regional Strategy has been operationalised. Also of importance is that during this period, Zimbabwe offered to take over the hosting of the RILO from Mozambique. This followed a call from the Governing Council to Members to consider hosting the office.

You will recall that Zimbabwe also offered to host the 29th Regional Steering Group this November, with Botswana gearing to host the next Governing Council alongside the related regional meetings in May 2019.



Delegates at the 23rd ESA Governing Council, hosted by Rwanda Revenue Authority in May, 2018.



Delegates of the 28th Regional Steering Group meeting hosted by Rwanda Revenue Administration in May, 2018.

ROCB STAFF ESTABLISHMENT

The current ROCB staff comprises the Director (Kenya), two Programme Officers from South Sudan and Kenya, Finance Officer, Administrator/PA to the Director and a Clerk (Kenya).



Larry Liza
Director

LARRY took his oath of office in May 2016 as the Director following a recruitment process managed by the ESA Management Committee on behalf of the Governing Council. Prior to this, he served at the ROCB as Programme Coordinator for the region for a period of 5 years. He is seconded to the World Customs Organization in the region from Kenya Revenue Authority where he served in various roles within the Customs and Border Control Department.

Larry holds a Master's degree in Environmental Planning and Management degree from the University of Nairobi where he also obtained his undergraduate honours degree in Bachelor of Science. He has various other qualifications in Customs, Information Technology, among others. Larry is also a renowned poet who has performed globally since the age of 4 and a published author. He serves as a Global Goodwill Ambassador for the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood where he champions maternal and newborn health across the globe.



Andrew Odhiambo
Finance Officer

ANDREW is an employee of the Kenya Revenue Authority, Customs and Border Control Department. He is a holder of Masters of Business Administration (Finance) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Honours degree both from Kenyatta University.

He is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA-K), and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).



David Ladu
Programme Officer

DAVID joined ROCB on 1st, August 2015 as a Program Officer. He graduated with a Master's of Science at University of Bellevue, Bellevue, Nebraska Human Services, Mental Health Professional, June 2006. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science, Government and Politics, at University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas in 2002.

Previously, he worked for the Ministry of Interior Government of South Sudan, South Sudan Customs Service, as a Chief Customs Officer (C.C.O), Station Head, Western Equatoria State Yambio, 2013. He also served at the South Sudan Customs Service Juba HQs Accountant (2012 -2013) and as the Team Leader Financial Controller for Nadapal Station Eastern Equatoria State 2007-2012.



Faith Mosongo
Programme Officer

FAITH joined ROCB on 7th, December 2015 as a Programme Officer. She has a Master's degree in Business Administration (Strategic Management) from Kenyatta University and a Bachelor of Science First Class honours degree from the University of Nairobi.

She is a trained Customs Officer with Kenya Revenue Authority and served at the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) section of KRA and worked alongside the WCO in this regard in the region, particularly in the East African Community. She was the Alternate National Project Manager and contact of the WCO AEO in Kenya before her recruitments to the ROCB.

She also previously worked at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).



Judy Mwaura
Administrator & PA to Director

JUDY is a holder of Bachelor of Business Administration (Marketing) degree from St. Paul's University, Limuru (SPUL). She is an employee of the Kenya Revenue Authority and worked as the Executive Assistant/PA for the Commissioner of Investigation and Enforcement Department for nine years.

She has just completed her Post graduate diploma in Tax Administration from Kenya School of Revenue Administration.



Primorose Maina
*Clerk / Assistant
Administrator*

PRIMROSE is a holder of a degree in Business Administration from Kenya Methodist University.

She is an employee of Kenya Revenue Authority and previously worked for Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) as a Marketing Assistant and Brookside Dairy (BDL) as a Marketing Auditor.

R REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES (RTC)

The region has four WCO Regional Training Centres in Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The report of the RTC Heads, ROCB and WCO meeting scheduled for 5th and 6th November in Zimbabwe will be presented to the RSG. The agenda of the meeting includes;

1. Introduction and Welcome Remark.
2. Election of Chair.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Review of the RTC Heads meeting report & review of progress made from the last RTC Heads meeting.
5. RTC Reports; Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe.
6. Upcoming trainings / workshops.
7. Performance Measurement criteria for RTCs.
8. Support of the RTCs to the region in their respective areas of Excellence.
9. Status of implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan (2018 – 2021).
10. The role of RTCs in supporting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
11. WCO Tools and Initiatives- Latest developments in the Capacity Building Directorate.
12. AOB.
13. Adoption of Report.
14. Preparation of RTC Heads meeting presentation for 29th RSG.

RTC CONTACTS



Regional Training Centre (RTC) Kenya

Kenya School of Revenue Administration, Kenya Revenue Authority,
P. O. Box 95707 – 08106, MOMBASA, KENYA
Website: <http://www.kra.go.ke/krati/>



Regional Training Centre (RTC) Mauritius

Customs Department, Mauritius Revenue Authority Custom House, Mer Rouge,
PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS Tel: +230 202 0500 Fax: +230 216 7601
Website: <http://www.mra.mu>



Regional Training Centre (RTC) South Africa

South African Revenue Service, 209 Waterkloof Road, Waterkloof House, Brooklyn 0181
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA Tel: +27 12 483 1752



ZIMRA Training Centre

1st Floor, Kurima House, 89 Nelson Mandela Avenue Box 4360, HARARE, ZIMBABWE
Fax: +263 4 795 769 | Tel: +263 4 797 674
Web site: www.zimra.co.zw

ONGOING PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS IN ESA

The following programmes/projects have been running in the region during the period under review;



WCO - EAC Trade Facilitation Program supported by SIDA



The SACU-WCO Customs Development Programme supported by SIDA



WCO ESA Project supported by the Finnish Government



Training Programmes supported by JICA

STATUS OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 23RD GOVERNING COUNCIL

Below is the status of the decisions made by the 23rd Governing Council meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in May, 2018.

1. Vice - Chair's Report

The GC acknowledged with appreciation the report of the Vice Chair, accepted to strengthen the ROCB and the need to share information on the strategic areas which were highlighted in his report -

The ROCB began developing structures and templates to aid in collection information aimed at providing the Governing Council with data to enable Members make informed decisions.

Some of the areas of focus include Projects, Revenue Performance and Mobilization, Baseline Statistics for the four strategic objectives, intra-regional trade levels, exports, imports etc. and Risk Management.

So far we have collected information on:

- i. Operational Border Posts
- ii. Status of TFA Implementation
- iii. African Continental Free Trade Area

- iv. Mercator Programme
- v. E- Learning
- vi. Risk Management Behaviours in ESA.

We however continue to consolidate and manage the data to enable us utilise them better for the progress of Members and the Region.

2. WCO Secretary General's Report

The GC;

- i. Acknowledged with appreciation the comprehensive report of the WCO SG.
- ii. Requested the WCO to build capacity in emerging areas identified by the Region such as Data, IT & E-Commerce and create a pool of accredited experts that can support the Region.
- iii. Urged the WCO to consider having Special programmes to support the small island countries.

3. ROCB Annual Report (Annexed)

The GC;

- i. Organization of a meeting of the ROCB Director and the CCFs - The Director met the coordinator of the CCFs. It was agreed that the coordinator would apprise the respective CCF Managers on the concerns highlighted and that they would consider ways of including/supporting the ROCB on need basis as well as if need be look at amending policies establishing all CCFs.
- ii. Kenya's support to the Region- The Vice Chair's office formally commended Kenya for their support to the Region through a letter sent to Kenya's Commissioner General.
- iii. RECs' collaboration with the ROCB. - The AUC continued to collaborate with the ROCB in hosting a corruption Risk Mapping Workshop for the Region in May, 2018.
The EAC invited the ROCB to participate in a workshop to develop the concept note on Trade Facilitation in July, 2018.
- iv. Acknowledged Members for meeting their subscription obligation. It appreciated Ethiopia for settling their outstanding debt and Angola for paying 3-year subscription in advance.
- v. Commended the ROCB for its comprehensive report and appreciated the efforts of the ROCB in building capacity in the Region.

4. Presentation by South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF)

The GC;

- i. Acknowledged with appreciation the report of SAAFF, and committed to support SAAFF's project proposal and share progressive reports on all its activities with the GC.

- ii. Strengthening collaboration with the private sector - The Vice Chair's office, ROCB and SAAFF are in constant communication in an effort to strengthen collaboration with the private sector.
The ROCB set up a web page for the Private Sector Consultative Group on the WCO ESA ROCB website

5. RSG Report

The GC;

- i. Appreciated Mozambique for hosting the RILO and noted its proposal to uphold the policy of RILO rotation among Members.
- ii. Formed a Working Group to diagnose the issues affecting the performance of RILO - A Working Group comprised of Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa, ROCB and the WCO held a meeting at the ROCB Offices to diagnose the issues affecting the performance of RILO as well as the funding requirements and submitted a report to the GC.
The GC adopted the report of the Working Group during the ESA Region Consultations Meeting held at the sidelines of the WCO Council in June, 2018.
The RILO office will be moved from Mozambique to Zimbabwe.
Consultations between the VC's office, ROCB, Zimbabwe and Mozambique are already in progress to effect the move.
- iii. Directed that Member Administrations formally nominate persons responsible for coordinating and reporting all regional WCO initiatives including RILO. - Members nominated National Contact Points to handle this matters.
- iv. Development of a Performance Measurement criteria for the RTCs - The Performance Measurement criteria for the RTCs was developed spearheaded by the ROCB and the RTCs' Chair Zimbabwe.

- v. Endorsed the AfCFTA as a standing agenda item alongside the TFA in regional meetings.

6. Regional Strategy (2018-2021): Adoption

The GC;

- i. Commended the work done by the Members who developed the proposed Regional Strategy.
- ii. Approved the Strategy with a few recommendations and inputs.
- iii. Tasked the Management Committee and the FGC to closely work with the ROCB in the Strategy execution and to strengthen capacity of the ROCB to carry out the implementation as well as Monitoring and Evaluation of the Strategy. - A meeting of the Management Committee, FGC and the ROCB was held at the ROCB offices in August 2018. This meeting aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ROCB to carry out the implementation of the Strategy as well as to review the Region's Financial Strategy to address the current financial challenges and develop a comprehensive proposal to be approved by the GC.
- iv. Requested the WCO to support the Region in implementing the Strategy and identifying donors who can fund the planned activities.
- v. Directed that Members dedicate contact persons to work with the ROCB in the implementation of the Strategy – Contact persons were nominated.

7. Finance & Governance Committee Report

The GC;

- i. Approved the ROCBs 2017/2018 audited Financial Statements.
- ii. Approved the ROCBs 2018/2019 Annual Budget subject to the readjusting of the budget proposals to keep within the expected income limits.

- iii. Approved the recruitment of a new external auditor for the year 2018/19. – The ROCB is in the process of recruiting a new external auditor.
- iv. Directed the ROCB to develop a work plan that includes a team building exercise for staff. – A work plan was developed and a team building exercise for staff held.
- v. Directed the ROCB to continue engaging Members to pay up their subscriptions and engage non-active Members and the donors in order to secure financial support for planned activities. - The ROCB has continued to engage Members to pay up their subscriptions fees.

Requested the Management Committee and the FGC to review the Region's Financial Strategy to address the current financial challenges and develop a comprehensive proposal to be approved by the GC. - A meeting of the Management Committee, FGC and the ROCB was held at the ROCB offices in August 2018. A comprehensive report of the meeting was presented to the GC.

8. Sotho Photo Contest & ESA Awards

- a) The participants voted for the Photo of the Year as follows;



Winner – Kenya



1st Runner Up – Malawi



2nd Runner Up – Botswana

- b). ROCB awarded the Communication Awards as follows;

- i. Best Member in Communication in the Year 2017/18 – **Zimbabwe.**
- ii. Best National Contact Point - **Ms. Barbara Moeng (South Africa).**
- iii. Special Recognition Award – **Mr. Kamalidine Souef (Comoros).**
- iv. Special Communication Award – **Lesotho Revenue Authority.**

c). ROCB awarded the Member who has been the most supportive in the Region as follows;

Member of the Year –  Mauritius.

9. Hosts and dates of next regional meetings

- i. GC accepted and expressed its appreciation to Zimbabwe for offering to host the 29th RSG.
- ii. GC accepted and expressed its appreciation to Botswana for offering to host the 24th GC and 30th RSG in 2019.

ESA AWARDS PICTORIAL



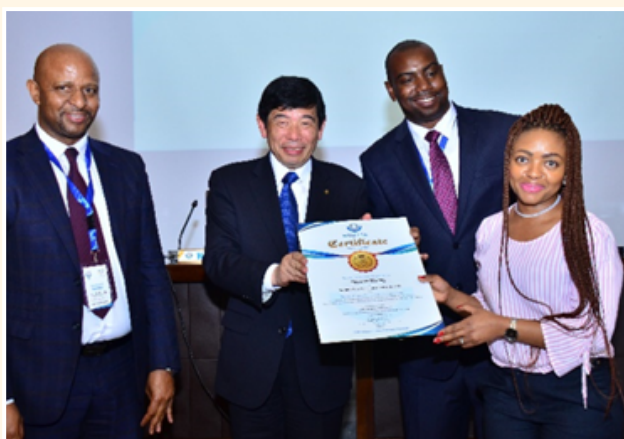
Member of the Year

Member of the Year Award presented by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the World Customs Organization Secretary General and Mr. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, the ESA Vice Chair and Commissioner of Customs, Uganda Revenue Authority to the Winner (Mauritius) which was represented by Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun Commissioner of Customs, Mauritius Revenue Authority.



Communication Award

The trophy and certificate were presented by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the World Customs Organization Secretary General to the Winner (Zimbabwe) which was represented by Mr. Happias Kuzvinzwa.



Best National Contact Point

Best National Contact Point Award presented by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the World Customs Organization Secretary General and Mr. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, the ESA Vice Chair and Commissioner of Customs, Uganda Revenue Authority to the Winner Ms. Barbara Moeng.



Special Recognition Award

Special Recognition Award presented by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the World Customs Organization Secretary General and Mr. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, the ESA Vice Chair and Commissioner of Customs, Uganda Revenue Authority to the Winner Mr. Souef Kamalidini, Director General Administration of Customs, Union of Comoros.



Special Communication Award

Special Communication Award presented by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the World Customs Organization Secretary General and Mr. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, the ESA Vice Chair and Commissioner of Customs, Uganda Revenue Authority to the Winner (Lesotho) which was represented by Ms. Lepholisa Makali Commissioner of Customs, Lesotho Revenue Authority.

Following the adoption of the Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan, the ROCB begun staff-staff discussions on the implementation of the Strategy as well as discussions with the strategy experts from the region and the WCO to map the way forward on its implementation. This entailed mapping out the Strategy executions model and the monitoring and evaluation formats. This report focuses on the activities, under the various objectives, planned or carried out during the period under review.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE I

Promote growth in Intra-Regional trade

This objective seeks to enhance and foster the opportunities for increased intra-regional trade amongst ESA member countries. This shall be achieved by creating the enabling environment to facilitate the efficient movement of goods, people and conveyances as envisioned in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Operational Border Posts in ESA

Border control is important in controlling and examining all those who enter or leave a country, especially today, in a world so plagued with terrorist threats and criminal acts. Border security means and regulations allow a country to monitor all people, animals and goods that travel across its borders. The ROCB coordinated the Region in mapping all functional land borders within the region, including the One Stop Border Posts as shown in **annex**.

1. Promotion of Trade Facilitation

- Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) remains a key tool of the WCO and anchors the implementation of the TFA. 15 members in the region have acceded to the RKC.
- Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA): 139 WTO Members have ratified the TFA, including 16 from the Region's 24 Members. These are; Mauritius, Botswana, Kenya, Zambia, Lesotho, Seychelles, Madagascar, Swaziland, Mozambique, Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Djibouti, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

c)

Status of TFA Ratification in ESA

No.	COUNTRY	DATE OF RATIFICATION
1.	Angola	In process of ratification
2.	Botswana	18.06.2015
3.	Burundi	In process of ratification
4.	Comoros	In process of ratification
5.	Djibouti	05.03.2018
6.	Eritrea	In process of ratification
7.	Ethiopia	In process of ratification
8.	Kenya	10.12.2015
9.	Lesotho	04.01.2016
10.	Madagascar	20.06.2016
11.	Malawi	12.07.2017
12.	Mauritius	05.03.2015
13.	Mozambique	06.01.2017
14.	Namibia	09.02.2018
15.	Rwanda	22.02.2017
16.	Seychelles	11.01.2016
17.	Somalia	In process of ratification
18.	South Africa	30.11.2017
19.	South Sudan	In process of ratification
20.	Kingdom of Eswatini	21.11.2016
21.	Tanzania	In process of ratification
22.	Uganda	27.06.2018
23.	Zambia	16.12.2015
24.	Zimbabwe	17.10.2018

d) The African Continental Free Trade Area was launched on 21st March 2018 during an extraordinary summit of the African Union (AU) in Kigali, Rwanda, with the signing of the AfCFTA by African leaders from 44 countries. Additionally, five countries signed the Agreement during the 31st Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Mauritania on 1st July 2018 bringing the total number of signatories to 49. To date, six countries have deposited their instruments of AfCFTA ratification with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission: Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Chad, and Eswatini.

e) The version endorsed in March included a framework agreement as well as protocols on trade in goods, trade in services, and dispute settlement, along with various annexes and other legal texts if successfully implemented, analysts say that the agreement could increase economic diversification and intracontinental trade significantly. A widely cited UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) study from 2012 showed that the AfCFTA could lead to a 52 percent increase above the baseline in intra-African trade flows by 2022.

AfCFTA Status in ESA

Country	Signing of the Agree-ment	Date	AfCFTA Consol-idated Text	Kigali Declara-tion	Free Move-ment Protocol	AfCFTA Ratifica-tion	Date	Status of the Rat-ification Process	Details/ Remarks on Status
Angola	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Botswana	No		No	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	The Agreement will be signed upon completion of ongoing work/negotiations on various protocols
Burundi	Yes	1/7/2018				No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Comoros	Yes	21/03/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Ongoing	Document requiring ratification will be submitted to Parliament before the end of the year 2018
Djibouti	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes		No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Eritrea	No					No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Eswatini (Kingdom of)	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1/7/2018	Completed	The process is ongoing.
Ethiopia	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Kenya	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10/5/2018	Completed	Completed
Lesotho	Yes	1/7/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Madagascar	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes		No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Malawi	Yes	21/03/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	Ratification will be done when all negotiated legal texts are completed and endorsed by our legal system
Mauritius	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	No	No	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Mozambique	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Namibia	Yes	1/7/2018	No	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	Namibia is working towards ratification before the next summit in 2019
Rwanda	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	26/5/2018	Completed	Completed
Seychelles	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Somalia	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
South Africa	Yes	1/7/2018	Yes	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
South Sudan	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Tanzania	Yes	21/3/2018	No	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.

Country	Signing of the Agree-ment	Date	AfCFTA Consol-idated Text	Kigali Declara-tion	Free Move-ment Protocol	AfCFTA Ratifica-tion	Date	Status of the Rat-ification Process	Details/ Remarks on Status
Uganda	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.
Zambia	No		No	Yes	No	No		Ongoing	The consolidated text frame work of the AfCFTA has not been signed. Consultations are currently under way
Zimbabwe	Yes	21/3/2018	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Ongoing	The process is ongoing.

2. East African Revenue Authorities work together for trade facilitation and enhanced border control

- Five Revenue Authorities of East Africa, namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, gathered in Zanzibar, Tanzania on 29th May 2018 for the first Regional Joint Coordinating Committee (RJCC) meeting of their newly launched “Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation and Border Control in East Africa”. The Project was launched in December 2017 by the five East African Revenue Authorities with joint support extended by the JICA and WCO, which follow-up on the outcome made in the preceding projects in the region.
- The new three-year and a half Project aims at improving efficiency of border operation and enhancing border control in East Africa with focus on (1) Effective One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) operation and (2) Customs capacity building on (i) risk management, (ii)

post clearance audit, and (iii) Program Global Shield (PGS).

3. WCO and SADC Secretariat deepen co-operation in the area of Trade Facilitation

- The WCO attended the joint meeting of the SADC Sub-Committees on Customs and Trade Facilitation from 21st to 23rd May 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana. The WCO made a presentation on the Mercator Programme as well as its support to WCO Members in Africa and in particular the SADC region.
- The Sub-Committees noted that the WCO and the SADC Secretariats are exploring the possibility to launch a joint donor-funded regional programme in 2019 to support the SADC Membership with implementation of the SADC Regional Trade Facilitation Programme.
- The WCO also held bilateral meetings with institutional and development partners such as the EU, GiZ, USAID Trade and Investment Hub to discuss the SADC Trade

Facilitation Programme in order to explore synergies and avoid potential duplication of activities. While in Botswana, the WCO also took the opportunity to meet with the Commissioner General of the Botswana Unified Revenue Services to discuss further cooperation between the WCO and that country on capacity-building matters in the framework of the WCO-SACU Connect project.



Delegates at the meeting



Delegates at the meeting



Status of Members Under the Mercator Programme in ESA

The Mercator Programme is designed to support WCO members to successfully implement the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation through the effective application of WCO instruments and tools. The Mercator Programme provides tailor-made support that takes

into account local conditions and environment for implementing trade facilitation measures.

There are 16 Members identified under Mercator Programme in the Region.

Type of Support Received by Member Administrations under the Mercator Programme

No.	Member	Support Received
1.	Angola	1. Needs Assessment Mission – 13 to 17 November 2017. 2. Strategic Planning Support Mission – 18 to 21 September 2018.
2.	Botswana	1. No support received under Mercator Programme. 2. The Environmental Scan/Diagnostic of Botswana Customs will be undertaken by the WCO from 19 – 30 November 2018.

No.	Member	Support Received
3.	Ethiopia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diagnostic mission on risk management 29 May - 02 June 2017. 2. Capacity building (training on customs risk management) July 23-27 2018. 3. Amharic e-learning module. 4. Ethio-Djibouti corridor Diagnostic mission and support on time release study (TRS). 5. PCA procedure Diagnostics, training and updating PCA procedure manual. 6. Advance ruling diagnostics and training on rules of origin and tariff.
4.	Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholders Inception workshop on TRS – 2 to 11 May 2018. 2. 30 officers of diverse ranks were trained on Risk Management in March 2017 and a follow up workshop on the same conducted on the 22 – 24 May 2017. 3. A joint WCO/JICA Risk Management Fact finding mission was conducted on the 19th and 20th April 2018.
5.	Lesotho	No information provided
6.	Madagascar	No information provided
7.	Malawi	<p>Malawi Revenue Authority agreed with the World Customs Organization a 3years (2017 to 2020) capacity building under the Mercator Programme.</p> <p>To date, Malawi has received support from WCO in the following areas: Time Release Study, Risk Management, Single Window and Advance Rulings.</p>
8.	Mozambique	Mozambique is yet to receive any support.
9.	Namibia	A GAP analysis on the Implementation of the TFA was scheduled for 22 – 25 October 2018.
10.	Rwanda	
11.	Seychelles	The Mercator Scoping Mission is due to be carried out end of October beginning of November 2018.
12.	South Africa	South Africa is yet to receive any support from the Mercator Programme, however the WCO carried out a scoping mission in November 2017.
13.	Swaziland	<p>The scoping mission to the Swaziland Revenue Authority was held from 27 to 31 August, 2018.</p> <p>An invitation has been forwarded for a proposal to have a Risk Management mission where a benchmarking visit with SARS is proposed for 3 to 7 December, 2018. This will be the first WCO intervention pursuant to the Mercator scoping mission. Plan are underway to commence work on PCA. A proposal of dates and Terms of Reference is awaited.</p>
14.	Uganda	No information provided
15.	Zambia	<p>The scoping mission to Zambia was held from 13th - 17th August, 2018.</p> <p>The Scoping mission was followed up with a WCO mission to plan for the support to Zambia in implementation of measures relating to Time Release Study (TRS), Coordinated Border Management (CBM), Data Harmonization and Single Window from 17 – 21 September 2018.</p> <p>As part of the Mercator tailor-made program activities, WCO has planned a training program (workshop) from the 5 - 9 November, 2018 for the Zambia Revenue Authority's Risk Managements Units aimed at strengthening capabilities in Risk profiling and targeting.</p>

No.	Member	Support Received
16	Zimbabwe	Review of Zimbabwe's Trusted Trader Framework - July 2016.
		Workshop on Intelligence-led Risk Management- August 2016.
		Formulation of Zimbabwe's Road Map Towards Implementing the WTO TFA - August/September 2016.
		Coordinated Border Management -29 August to 7 September 2016.
		Workshop on Training and Talent Management Strategies- September 2016.
		Workshop on Test Procedures and Customs Laboratory Support - November 2016.
		Introduction to PCA Operational Guidelines Workshop January 2017, with a follow up workshop done in July 2017.
		National Workshop On Time Release Study (TRS) - 21 to 25 August 2017.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Promote Fair and Efficient Revenue Mobilization.

- a) Economic growth and development among ESA Member relies significantly on government revenue mobilization. There is need to implement modernized revenue collection methods, processes and procedures taking into account the need to ensure transparency and fairness in the process.

1. Harmonized System

- a) The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System generally referred to as "Harmonized System" or simply "HS" is a multipurpose international product nomenclature developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The HS contributes to the harmonization of Customs and trade procedures, and the non-documentary trade data interchange in connection with such procedures, thus reducing the costs related to international trade.
- b) The ROCB carried out a survey to ascertain the HS versions that have been implemented by Members as shown in the table below;

HS Versions Implemented by Members

No.	MEMBER	HS VERSION
1	Angola	HS 2012
2	Botswana	HS 2017
3	Burundi	HS 2012
4	Comoros	HS 2017
5	Djibouti	No information provided
6	Eritrea	No information provided
7	Ethiopia	HS 2012- Process of migrating to HS 2017 is ongoing.
8	Kenya	HS 2017
9	Lesotho	HS 2017
10	Madagascar	HS 2017
11	Malawi	HS 2012 (5th Edition)
12	Mauritius	HS 2017
13	Mozambique	HS 2017
14	Namibia	HS 2017
15	Rwanda	HS 2017
16	Seychelles	HS 2017
17	Somalia	Expected to introduced the HS in 2019
18	South Africa	HS 2017
19	South Sudan	Expected to introduce the HS by 2019
20	Swaziland	HS 2017
21	Tanzania	HS 2017
22	Uganda	HS 2017
23	Zambia	HS 2017
24	Zimbabwe	HS 2017

2. JICA Expert Team Building Capacity on HS for Customs Officers and Clearing Agents of South Sudan

- a) The project for capacity development of South Sudan Custom Service (SSCS) for introduction of Harmonized System (HS) code (P.I.H.S.) started in 2016, with a project purpose of achieving customs administration based on HS code in the Republic of South Sudan by 2019.
- b) As of June 2018, P.I.H.S. has held a series of trainings for 353 customs officers and clearing agents in both HS and trade statistics. The trainings aim to ensure smooth administration, efficiency and operations of customs procedures.
- c) The Republic of South Sudan is a landlocked country and depends on Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda for a large portion of foreign trade. In 2016, South Sudan became one of the six member countries of the East African Community (EAC) and the need for standardization of cross border management has increased. In addition, the process of establishing a revenue authority to enhance collection of non-oil revenue is underway.
- d) Consequently, correct classification is a legal responsibility and adjusting tax systems in line with HS is paramount in pursuit of a common policy objective. Therefore, the prowess obtained by customs officers and clearing agents from JICA experts on accurate import and export declarations based on HS and trade

statistics is vital. They will also use the HS to execute appropriate customs procedures and enumerate any applicable tariffs or duties for purposes of revenue collection and trade facilitation in the EAC.

- e) P.I.H.S. continues its efforts and activities in line with the project design in 2018 and 2019. The project will implement trainings for customs officers and clearing agents in Juba and introduce the HS code into customs procedures in South Sudan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen Intra-Regional Compliance and Enforcement

- a) This intention of this objective is to reinforce the efficiency and effectiveness in upholding compliance to Customs law, regulations and procedures in the region, and creating the enforcement mechanisms to strengthen regional security, protection of society to enable economic growth and development. This shall incorporate strategies to enhance regional trader compliance programmes and development of frameworks for customs-to-customs networking on information exchange, intelligence sharing and treatment of common and emerging risks.

1. African Union-WCO ESA ROCB Joint Regional Workshop on Corruption Risk Mapping

- a) The African Union - WCO ESA ROCB joint Regional Workshop on Corruption Risk Mapping, hosted by the Mauritius Revenue Authority was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 22nd to 25th May, 2018. It was attended by participants from 19 ESA Countries; Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda



Delegates at the workshop

and Zimbabwe. Representatives of the RTC Kenya, RTC Mauritius, RTC South Africa and RTC Zimbabwe, as well as the ROCB, AUC and the Chairperson of the AU Sub Committee of Directors General of Customs, Mr. Edwin Fongod, were also present in the meeting.

- b) The workshop was officially opened by Dr. Navin Beekary the Director General, Independent Commission against Corruption who highlighted the link between Risk Mapping and Corruption and laid emphasis on the importance of Risk Mapping in the prevention of Corruption. Mr. Fongod Edwin Nuvaga, the Chairperson of the AU Sub Committee of Directors General of Customs; thanked MRA, WCO ESA ROCB and the AUC for organizing the important workshop, in line with the theme of the AUC in 2018. He pledged to share the outcomes of the workshop, for support and implementation, with the upcoming 10th meeting of the AU subcommittee for Directors General of Customs in Comoros.
- c) Mr. Aly Moussa, the Head of Customs Cooperation Division, Department of Trade and Industry, African Union Commission, pointed out that the AUC has already started work on Corruption Risk Mapping, this being the second workshop as a follow up to the first

workshop that was held in 2016, in Dakar, Senegal. Mr. Larry Liza, the Director ROCB, recognized Mauritius for its strong index in integrity and risk mapping and management, thanked the AUC for funding the workshop and pointed out that the AUC has consistently supported various capacity building activities in the Region.

- d) The workshop resulted in concrete outcomes and way forward for the ESA Region in regard to Corruption Risk Mapping.

2. Highlights on the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO)

- a) **Coordination of RILO Technical Working Group Meeting:** The ROCB hosted the RILO Technical Working Group Meeting on 4th and 5th June 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The members of the working group included the RILO (Mozambique), Kenya, South Africa, WCO and the ROCB. However, the RILO (Mozambique) were unable to attend the meeting citing to financial constraints. They however shared necessary documentation and gave their input on the Report before its finalization. The meeting did a situational analysis of the current hosting of the RILO,



Delegates at the workshop

challenges facing the RILO and came up with recommendations to be reviewed for possible adoption by the Governing Council at the sidelines of the WCO Council meeting in June, 2018. The Governing Council adopted the recommendations and the report of the working group was shared with the Region.

b) RILO moves to Zimbabwe: The Governing Council accepted Zimbabwe's offer to host the RILO for a 3-year period, running in line with the newly approved Regional Strategy.

c) Management Committee Consideration of RILO matters; The Management Committee; Agreed that Zimbabwe, ROCB and the RILO office with the support of the WCO draft an MoU to be signed between Zimbabwe and the Region.

- i. Directed that capacity building be done to equip the RILO Office and ensure it functions effectively. The Vice Chair will engage the WCO to support the Region in building capacity for the RILO office.
- ii. Agreed that the Vice chair, ROCB and the RILO office with the support of the WCO draft a framework to guide various aspects of running the office such as; number of staff required, job descriptions, working relationship between the RILO and ROCB office.
- iii. Requested the Vice Chair to write a letter to the WCO Secretary General informing him of the decision to move the RILO office from Mozambique to Zimbabwe, appreciate Mozambique for hosting the office, request the WCO for capacity building exercises to support the RILO Office and facilitate the official handover of the office to Zimbabwe.

3. East African Customs will work together to enhance border control through PGS

- a) The Programme Global Shield (PGS) - a unique initiative introduced by WCO in partnership with INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - aims at prevention of smuggling and illicit diversion of precursor chemicals and other components that could be used to build Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The role of Customs is critical in its capacity to monitor cross-border movements of all goods and detect these threats in cooperation with other relevant agencies. Cross border trade has to be safe and secure from the threats that may hinder or damage the global trading system.
- b) Under the Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation and Border Control in East Africa, jointly supported by JICA and WCO, the first regional seminar on PGS for East African Customs was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The seminar aimed at raising awareness amongst East African Customs on the threats posed by IEDs as well as to provide a platform for the participants to share their experiences and to know the international best practices in relation to PGS implementation.



Delegates at the workshop

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Enhance Integrity and professionalism in Human Capital

- a) The ability of Customs in contributing to regional growth and development lies in the organizational efficiencies and effectiveness of Customs administrations to implement modernized systems and procedures enabled by a strong professional workforce. This objective seeks to enhance integrity, professionalism and human capital development in Member customs administrations through the development of subject matter experts, promotion of gender equality and diversity and enhancing research initiatives.

1. Utilization of WCO tools: E-Learning in ESA

- a) 18 Members have updated the details of their E- Learning Coordinators. Members who are pending include; Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Tanzania and Zambia.
- b) The ROCB obtained statistics on the utilization of the WCO tools particularly on E-Learning from the WCO. The ROCB requested Members to provide more information on the same. It was established that while there are Members who register their staff directly through the WCO platform; the WCO has installed the WCO Module platform in national servers hence enabling Customs officers to be enrolled and partake in the WCO modules nationally.

Customs Officers enrolled directly on the WCO CLiKC! Portal

Country	Registered users	Active users
Angola	5	5
Botswana	48	48
Burundi	25	24
Comoros	13	13
Djibouti	14	14
Ethiopia	13	13
Eswatini	18	18
Kenya	108	108
Lesotho	127	127
Madagascar	28	27
Malawi	50	50
Mauritius	53	52
Mozambique	36	36
Namibia	183	47
Rwanda	82	82
Seychelles	54	54
South Africa	248	247
South Sudan	10	10
Tanzania	66	65
Uganda	37	37
Zambia	55	54
Zimbabwe	50	50

2. Website Updates

- a) The regional website is currently up to date. It is worth noting that the publications section of the website has been improved further to reflect publications in different areas/topics which are free to download for all Members and all stakeholders.

Publications in the WCO ESA ROCB Website

<https://www.wcoesarocb.org/publications/>

ESA & WCO
Publications

1. Advance Rulings
2. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
3. Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)
4. Border Management
5. Customs Enforcement Network(CEN) /
National Customs Enforcement Network (nCEN)
6. Compliance & Enforcement
7. Counterfeiting & Privacy
8. Customs to Business Partnerships
9. Data Model & Digital Customs
10. Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS)
11. Electronic Commerce (E-commerce)
12. Gender Equity & Diversity
13. Harmonized System (HS)
14. Human Resource Management (HRM)/
Human Resource Development (HRD)
15. Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs)
16. Informal Cross Border Trade
17. Integrity
18. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
19. Leadership Management Development (LMD)
20. Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII)
21. Performance Measurement
22. Post Clearance Audit (PCA)
23. Regional Integration
24. Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)
25. Risk Management
26. Rules of Origin (ROO)
27. Single Window (SW)
28. Time Release Study (TRS)
29. Trade Facilitation
30. Transit
31. Valuation and Transfer Policy

Other
Publications

3. Launch of the WCO eLearning Platform at the WCO RTC Kenya

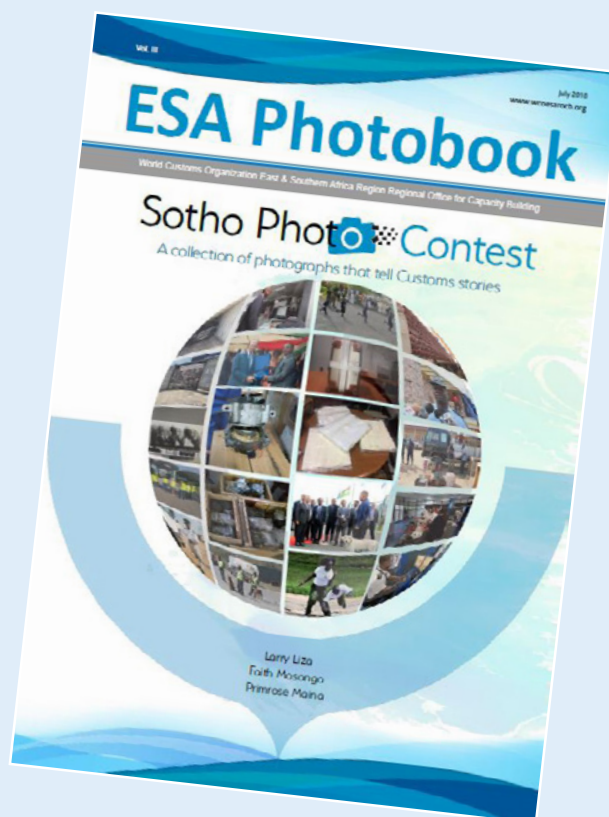
- a) The WCO RTC Kenya, proudly launched its eLearning platform on 4th April, 2018. The project which is funded by the Finnish government under the framework of the WCO ESA Project II, aims to build sustainable capacity of the RTCs in the region. This entails funding RTC's in the region in their areas of specialization. RTC Kenya was identified as a Centre for Excellence for the Economic Competitive package, among other packages that include revenue, Compliance and enforcement, and organization development of the WCO.
- b) The eLearning platform was officially launched by Chief Manager (CM), Container Freight Station (CFS) Operations, Mr. Kiprop Bullut on behalf of the Regional Coordinator, Southern Region, Mr. Nicholas Kinoti. Mr. Bullut expressed his appreciation to the Finnish government and the WCO ESA Project II for their continued support. Further, he emboldened staff to utilize the platform. The



launch follows a two-day training of trainers (ToT) session where trainers were introduced to the new platform as well as the WCO eLearning modules, especially those relevant to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

4. The ESA Sotho Photo Book

- a) The ROCB launched the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Sotho Photo contest as an Annual Contest to be voted for at the Governing Council in the year 2016. The winner is awarded a trophy and certificate with the runners-up awarded certificates.
- b) This year, 15 Members submitted photos showcasing Member history, activities and successes in exercising mandate. Kenya's submission was overwhelmingly voted as the Photo of the Year 2018, therefore winning the trophy two years in row with Malawi voted as the 1st Runner Up and Botswana the 2nd Runner Up. The ROCB published the ESA Sotho Photo Book, 2018 and shared it with the Region. The book may also be downloaded from the Publications section of the WCO ESA ROCB Website



5. Newsletter Publication

- a) The ROCB aims to publish eNewsletters quarterly and urges Members and stakeholders to submit their articles to the ROCB on a rolling basis. During the reporting period two newsletters were shared with the Region; April- June Issue and the July- September Issue.
- b) The editions mainly featured the ESA Regional meetings, ESA Awards as well as the 10th edition of ordinary meeting of the African Union Sub-committee of Directors General of customs in Moroni, Comoros Islands. This meeting was honoured by the participation of high personalities such the President of the Union of Comoros, H.E. Mr Azali Assoumani, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organisation, Dr Kunio Mikuriya and the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, HE Ambassador Albert Muchanga.



Other Reports

The Management Committee directed that the ROCB consolidates the reports of the Regional Economic Communities, Regional Projects and all the other stakeholders and development partners. Below are some of the reports:

WCO ESA Project II activities (May – October 2018)

The WCO-Finland ESA Project II office in collaboration with other organizations/donors has conducted a number of activities between May and October 2018. In line with its agenda of strengthening the capacities in the ESA region in their modernization efforts to implement RKC and TFA/TF measures, the WCO- Finland ESA Project II conducted the following activities:

1. Workshop (WS) on the RKC to assist Burundi to finalize a comparative analysis between the RKC and the national code.
2. TRS WS for Kenya.
3. National WS on Rules of Origin (1 regional expert was accredited).
4. National Workshop on Rules of Origin for Zambia Customs (1 regional expert was accredited).
5. Regional Single Window pre-accreditation WS (4 regional experts pre-accredited).
6. E-learning course for Customs on Gender Equality finalized.
7. ToT Phase II workshop for French speaking countries in Mauritius.
8. TRS Workshop; to develop capacity in Uganda Mercator implementation planning workshop in Angola.
9. Mercator Scoping mission, in Swaziland.
10. Phase II Single Window Workshop in Comoros.
11. Zimbabwe - SARS Trader Segmentation Benchmark Visit.
12. Ethiopia Risk Management and Selectivity Workshop.
13. Peoples Diagnostic and Strategic Planning mission in Ethiopia.
14. Workshop on Advance Rulings in Malawi

Achievements

- By the end of October 2018, six of the 12 supported countries under the WCO-Finland ESA Project II had benefited from Mercator Programme and it is expected that 2 other countries i.e. will also be joining the Mercator programme. Delivery against the formal Mercator Implementation Plans continued in Ethiopia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Angola.
- The tailor made track of the Mercator Programme has facilitated the leveraging of other funding sources within WCO and beyond. Joint funding has been applied in programme activities with Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Malawi (WCO-HMRC-UNCTAD) and in Kenya (Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation). The Time Release Study for Uganda was funded jointly with Trade Mark East Africa.
- The Project has been able to assist ESA Customs Administrations in English, French, Portuguese and Amharic speaking countries with main areas of Support being Time Release Study, SW and Support to regional autonomy
- All the 24 ESA Members have been invited and 9 'non-supported' countries have attended in either Regional or Sub-Regional Events.

Progress report for WCO- ESA Region - Regional Private Sector Group

- a) The Regional PSCG is currently busy with the fourth draft of the Regional Private Sector Group Terms of Reference (ToR) which deals with the purpose of the group, its rotation and working methods. The objective is to conclude a final ToR for adoption during the first week of September 2018.
- b) Due to the vast number of countries (24

member countries) and its geographic location, all management of activities and relevant operational challenges regarding the Regional Private Sector Group, will be facilitated under the hospices of the WCO East and Southern Africa Regional Office for Capacity Building (WCO ESA ROCB), namely Larry Liza (Director) and Faith Mosongo (Project /Program officer).

- c) To date we have had two Skype meetings, recording minutes for future reference and ease of good governance.
- d) A database is being compiled consisting of active members from the private sector to make a meaningful contribution for each of the 24 countries. The private sector is categorized as per their activities in which they conduct the end-to-end supply chain movements, i.e. importers, exporters, manufacturers and specifically the role players in the extended supply chain: shipping line, airline, freight forwarders, customs brokers, terminal operators, road transport companies, etc. This will be on-going but the initial set-up will be complete within the next two days.
- e) A sample of a draft invitation letter was sent to the WCO ESA ROCB for approval and will be sent out by the Vice- Chair of the ESA Region for acceptance of nomination of the applicable individual into Regional Private Sector Group towards the middle to September 2018.

Work plan

The work plan consists of two main areas of focus. The work streams are split and will ensure that all the private sector members participate in their fields of expertise.

- a) **Work plan 1** will be centered on the identifiable deliverables in terms of:
 - Progress and implementation status of the available instruments in the WCO toolkit to ensure standards are simplified and harmonized

- Update and progress on the Customs-to-Business partnership i.e. AEO program, Trusted Trader program, Preferred Trader program
- Alignment and implementation of the WTO – TFA instruments

b) Work plan 2 will be centered on the identifiable deliverables in terms of:

- Compile a list of Private sectors concerns articulated into a well-defined problem statement with possible remedies to address the problems, review the World Bank ranking in terms of documentation and time spend for an import and export transaction per HS classification or Customs procedure code.
- Review and clarify the in- transit movement processes with recommendations.

From the above it can be clearly seen that the Regional Private Sector group wants to work with practical implementation and measurement of results in the day-to-day activities. The progress in the region and where can it appropriately adopt the practical implementation of various WCO toolkits & instruments to ensure border and cross border synchronization.

Work method

Working methodology is to get information directly from the private sector (operators on the ground involve in the day-to-day activities), coupled with real-time statistics, share with Customs Administration openly and honestly and articulate the problem stated with possible remedies in a structured format. The agreed remedies can then be applied through an action plan and joint monitoring and evaluation with its applicable successes.

Challenges

We are aware of the current challenges:

- Funding.
- Creating an awareness and political will in the private sector to participate with solutions.
- Sharing of information inclusive and collectively.
- Highlight successes and continue to build the momentum.
- Too many challenges will kill any good intention, however we are determined to establish a good working structure, stay positive, keep updating and hold the vision of a unified ESA-Region which adds value and raises the standards of living for all in a safe, secure, fair environment.

Summary

- The Regional Private Sector Group under the WCO ESA Region is very important to us and we want to build it on a good, sustainable platform that can bring added value to our lives. With our interaction and media sharing we will make use of the latest technology available i.e. WhatsApp group, web page for Regional Private Sector Group, webinar for five countries and Skype calls on regular intervals to ensure we work collectively and transparently.
- A monthly report will be circulated via the ESA- ROCB office that will ensure that the message and progress is shared transparently and above all include the private sector at large.

CONCLUSION

The Regional Strategy has been operationalised, and already transforming our working and reporting. It ensures that we utilise all the available resources to meet the vision of the ESA Governing Council of a region *that facilitates trade efficiently and professionally while ensuring economic growth and intra-regional trade*. We must admit though certain challenges still exist, especially regarding funding. We are looking at different ways of gathering funds beyond the traditional ones, to enable us to effectively execute the Strategy.

During the reporting period, the ROCB managed to conduct only one regional mission, that is, the Corruption Risk Mapping workshop, thanks to the financial support and cooperation from the African Union Commission. We are hopeful that in the coming days, we shall continue to play key roles in the organization and coordination of regional workshops and missions, enabling us to better monitor the progress made from the inception of such missions.

Finally, we thank all the stakeholders for their continued support, including the ESA Vice Chair alongside the Management Committee, the Members and our Regional Training Centres, the World Customs Organization, our partners such as the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities, the Private Sector Consultative Group regionally represented by South African Association of Freight Forwarders, other Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCBs), projects and donors in the region, among others. We salute our host nation, Kenya, as Kenya Revenue Authority, with our hearts of gratitude continuing to grow for their Commissioner General, Commissioner of Customs, the Management and Staff of the Authority for their continued hosting and support.

LARRY LIZA

DIRECTOR,

November, 2018.

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

East and Southern Africa

Regional Office for Capacity Building,
9th Floor, Corporate Business Center (CBC), Elgon
Road, Upper Hill

P. O. Box 50581 - 00200 NAIROBI, KENYA.

Tel: +254 709011611

Email: rocb@wcoesarocb.org

Website: www.wcoesarocb.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcoesarocb

Twitter: @wcoesarocb



LARRY LIZA

Director

larry.liza@wcoesarocb.org



ANDREW ODHIAMBO

Finance Officer,

andrew.odhiambo@wcoesarocb.org



DAVID LADU

Programme Officer,

david.ladu@wcoesarocb.org



FAITH MOSONGO

Programme Officer,

faith.mosongo@wcoesarocb.org

Annex 1

OPERATIONAL BORDER POSTS IN EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

[illegible]



World Customs Organization
East and Southern Africa Region

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

East and Southern Africa

Regional Office for Capacity Building,

9th Floor, Corporate Business Center (CBC), Elgon Road, Upper Hill
P. O. Box 50581 - 00200 NAIROBI, KENYA. Tel: +254 709011611

Email: rocb@wcoesarocb.org

Website: www.wcoesarocb.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcoesarocb

Twitter: [@wcoesarocb](https://twitter.com/wcoesarocb)