



World Customs Organization
East and Southern Africa Region

WCO ESA ROCB HALF YEAR REPORT

2019
2020

Presented to

**31st Regional Steering
Group (RSG)**

6th – 8th November 2019



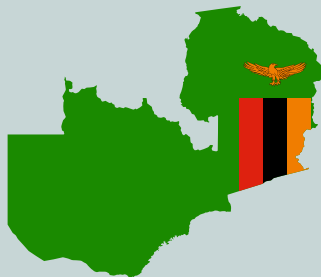
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Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel

City: Lusaka, Zambia

Host: Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA)

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East and Southern Africa

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Background

Membership

The WCO East and Southern Africa Region consist of 24 Member Countries, namely:

- Angola,
- Botswana,
- Burundi,
- Comoros,
- Djibouti,
- Eritrea,
- Ethiopia,
- Kenya,
- Lesotho,
- Madagascar,
- Malawi,
- Mauritius,
- Mozambique,
- Namibia,
- Rwanda,
- Seychelles,
- Somalia,
- South Africa,
- South Sudan,
- Eswatini,
- Tanzania,
- Uganda,
- Zambia,
- Zimbabwe.



Abbreviations / Acronyms

AEO	Authorised Economic Operator
AFEC	African Financial & Economic Crimes Forum
AUC	Africa Union Commission
CBM	Coordinated Border Management
CCF – China	Customs Cooperation Fund - China
CCF – Japan	Customs Cooperation Fund - Japan
CCF – Korea	Customs Cooperation Fund – Korea
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Area (African CFTA)
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
PSCG	Private Sector Consultative Group
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
SACU	South African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ToT	Training of Trainers
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

A region that facilitates trade efficiently and professionally while ensuring economic growth and intra-regional trade.

Vision

Purpose statement

To develop gender equitable, professional and modernized Customs administrations that are fair, efficient and effective in revenue collection and border management service.

To contribute to the economic growth of the Region in trade, security, social protection and human capital development.

Goal

Values

- Transparency
- Probity
- Commitment
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Cooperation

Introduction

This is the Half Year Report for the financial year 2019/2020 of the World Customs Organization, East and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building.

We introduced a new reporting format that is aimed at providing Members and all our development partners with information needed to make strategic decisions at a glance. This half year report goes further and for the first time, integrates the reports of the other regional entities and stakeholders in one, including those of RTCs and RILO, the WCO ESA Project, the Private Sector Consultation group, among others. We regret though that we may not have all the reports included, for reasons beyond us, and hope to grow in this area in the future.

Our highlight of the year, for the region, is our collaboration with the African Union Commission with whom we organised the regional transit management workshop whose recommendations were adopted by the African Union Sub-Committee of the Directors General of Customs during their meeting held in Uganda in September 2019.

We thank Botswana for hosting of the 24th Governing Council, alongside other regional meetings and for the hospitality extended to all delegates. It is also important to note that Botswana was elected as ESA Vice Chair; Zimbabwe (new Deputy Vice Chair) and Mauritius (additional Member to the WCO Policy Commission) forming the new ESA Management Committee. It is also worth mentioning that the ESA Vice Chair and Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr. Phodiso Valashia, and his team, recently visited Kenya, for a host of meetings with the ROCB, our host administration, Kenya, various missions and development partners. He held meetings with the Regional Office for Capacity Building's Director and staff, including the WCO ESA Project team, during the 23rd to 25th September 2019 period he was in the country.

This report is presented for discussions by the 31st Regional Steering Group Meeting and reports on among other matters; the consolidated report on all the capacity building activities carried out by the ROCB and other regional structures during the period under consideration (May 2019 to October 2019) and the status of the decisions of the 24th Governing Council.

The Financial Statements will be reviewed by the Region's Finance and Governance Committee (FGC) in their meeting hosted by Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2019.



Heads of Delegations, Commissioners General and Commissioners attending the 24th Governing Council. Seated from left to right are WCO ESA ROCB Director Mr. Larry Liza, WCO Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Botswana Minister for Finance Hon. Matambo (centre), Ag. Commissioner General (Botswana) Mr. Phodiso P. Valashia, and the WCO ESA Vice Chair Mr. Dicksons Kateshumbwa (Uganda).




The ESA Vice Chair and Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS), Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr. Phodiso Valashia, and the Commissioner General, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Mr. James Githii Mburu during the Vice Chair's visit to Nairobi, Kenya in September 2019.

Status of the AEO and Preferred Trader Programmes In ESA

AEO is a preferential customs clearing programme that allows trusted customs clients to enjoy: Preferential customs facilitation when clearing, reduced time and cost at points of service and customs certified secured and reliable trading partner when trading.


The main objective of the Preferred Trader Programme is to move away from the traditional Customs gate-keeper approach, to a more risk-based approach. Compliant traders will receive benefits as stipulated in legislation for accredited clients. The aim is to reduce the frustrations and the costs that can be incurred by traders who are operating in the global market.

The table below shows the current status of the AEO and Preferred Trader Programmes in ESA.

Country	Program Title	Maturity Level	Program Launched	Number of Operators
 Angola	Angola AEO Program	Low	2019 Pilot to Start	10 -15
 Botswana	Preferred Trader Programme	Low	On pilot	3
 Burundi	AEO	Medium	2014	13
 Comoros	-	-	-	-
 Djibouti	AEO	-	-	-
 Eritrea	-	-	-	-
 Eswatini	-	-	-	-
 Ethiopia	-	-	-	-
 Kenya	AEO	High	2010	221
 Lesotho	Preferred Trader Programme pilot	Low	2014	-
 Madagascar	Accelerated Clearance Program	High	2011	108
 Malawi	AEO	Low	2018	7
 Mauritius	AEO Qualified Trade-Net User	High	2008	3 - 28
 Mozambique	AEO	Low	2012	6
 Namibia	-	-	-	-
 Rwanda	Compliant Trader schemes	Medium	2008	22
 Seychelles	AEO	-	2019 (estimate)	-
 Somalia	-	-	-	-
 South Africa	Preferred Trader Program	Medium	2017	106
 South Sudan	-	-	-	-
 Tanzania	Compliant Traders' Scheme	High	2007	52
 Uganda	AEO	High	2013	66
 Zambia	Customs Accredited Clients Program	Medium	2012	59
 Zimbabwe	AEO	Medium	2013	10

Ease of Doing Business 2019

Ease of doing business, previously known as 'Doing Business' in 2015, is the score indicating an economy's position to the best regulatory practice. Nevertheless, the process for calculating the score remains the same. The score combines measures with different units such as time to start a company or procedures to transfer a property. The score captures the gap between an economy's current performance and a measure of best regulatory practice set in *Doing Business 2015* across the entire sample of the same 41 indicators for 10 *Doing Business* indicator sets used in previous years.

ESA Position	Country	Global position	EODB Score	EODB Score Change
1	 Mauritius	20	79.58	+1.29
2	 Rwanda	29	77.88	+4.15
3	 Kenya	61	70.31	+5.25
4	 South Africa	82	66.03	+1.37
5	 Botswana	86	65.40	+0.46
6	 Zambia	87	65.08	+1.48
7	 Seychelles	96	62.41	-0.01
8	 Djibouti	99	62.02	+8.87
9	 Lesotho	106	60.60	+0.19
10	 Namibia	107	60.53	+0.25
11	 Malawi	111	59.59	+0.84
12	 Eswatini	117	58.95	+0.13
13	 Uganda	127	57.06	+0.65
14	 Mozambique	135	55.53	+1.78
15	 Tanzania	144	53.63	+0.34
16	 Zimbabwe	155	50.44	+1.92
17	 Ethiopia	156	49.06	+0.91
18	 Madagascar	161	48.89	+0.71
19	 Comoros	164	48.66	+0.14
20	 Burundi	168	47.41	+0.73
21	 Angola	173	43.86	+2.16
22	 South Sudan	185	35.34	+2.04
23	 Eritrea	189	23.07	+0.13
24	 Somalia	190	20.04	+0.06

Customs Interface Platform

The following table shows the Customs Interface Platform (Cost to Export, Time taken to Export, cost to Import and Time taken to Import) per country in ESA.

Country	Cost to Export (US\$)	Time to Export (Hours)	Cost to Import (US\$)	Time to Import (Hours)
 Angola	240	96	460	96
 Botswana	179	18	67	3
 Burundi	150	120	1025	180
 Comoros	124	50	93	26
 Djibouti	95	60	100	50
 Eritrea
 Eswatini	76	2	76	4
 Ethiopia	175	76	750	194
 Kenya	191	19	115	60
 Lesotho	90	1	90	1
 Madagascar	117	49	150	58
 Malawi	342	75	162	55
 Mauritius	128	9	166	9
 Mozambique	160	36	60	16
 Namibia	348	90	63	3
 Rwanda	110	30	121	48
 Seychelles	115	44	93	33
 Somalia	350	73	300	76
 South Africa	55	68	73	36
 South Sudan	194	192	350	360
 Tanzania	275	96	375	240
 Uganda	102	24	296	96
 Zambia	200	96	175	72
 Zimbabwe	170	99	150	81
Average	173	62	231	78

Status of the Decisions of the 24th Governing Council

No.	Agenda item	Decisions
1.	Vice - Chair's Report (Annexed)	<p>The GC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Acknowledged with appreciation the report of the Vice Chair. ii. Noted with appreciation Zimbabwe's commitment to support the RILO and for ensuring that it is fully operational and vibrant.
2.	WCO Secretary General's Report	<p>The GC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Acknowledged with appreciation the comprehensive report of the WCO SG.
3.	ROCB Annual Report & Baseline Statistics (Annexed)	<p>The GC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Acknowledged and appreciated the comprehensive reports by the ROCB. ii. Appreciated Kenya for its support to the region taking note they are meeting 70% of the cost of running the ROCB. iii. Appreciated the data provided by the ROCB and directed the ROCB to monitor the resolution of the challenges which were identified in the baseline studies. – <i>Continuing.</i> iv. Requested Kenya to fast-track the registration of the ROCB. - <i>Kenya is progressing the finalization with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Vice Chair also met Kenya's officials who apprised him of the progress.</i> Called on Members to uphold measures and best practices that support revenue mobilization by utilizing facilitative tools and instrument such as Post clearance audit and Advance Rulings. v. Directed the ROCB to provide statistics annually in all the areas where the baselines were undertaken to enable tracking of progress. – <i>Continuing – elaborate and processed data to be presented annually.</i>
4.	RSG Report	<p>The GC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Acknowledged with appreciation the report of the 30th RSG. ii. Directed the RILO to align its activities to the Regional Strategy, utilize the collected data to identify the common risks and undertake operations to address them. – <i>Continuing.</i>

No.	Agenda item	Decisions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Directed the RILO with the support of the ROCB to share intelligence information with Members to aid in facilitating prompt response to threats and risks in the region. – <i>Continuing.</i> iv. Directed that all actionable areas be completed by November 2019. v. Directed the Vice Chair to continue engaging non active members to seek their active participation in the region. – <i>Discussions held with the inactive members with positive feedback from Somalia. Actually, Somalia paid its subscription fees for the year 2019/2020.</i>
7.	Efficient cross-border management during a response to a disaster.	<p>The GC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Acknowledged with appreciation the informative report by the UN – OCHA. ii. Urged the Members to accede to and domesticate the international instruments and tools for fast Customs clearance of relief consignments. iii. Directed that a regional approach in identifying, coordinating and championing response to disasters be adopted and urged the support of the WCO and UN-OCHA on this matter. iv. Urged the Members to carry out sensitization exercises on fast clearance of relief consignments.
8.	Customs Reforms and Modernization in Botswana - Presentations by NUCTECH and Crimson Logic	<p>The GC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Acknowledged with appreciation the informative report by NUCTECH and Crimson Logic. ii. Urged NUCTECH and Crimson Logic to partner with the RTCs to deliver training on the technologies presented.
9.	Finance & Governance Committee Report	<p>The GC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approved the ROCBs 2018/2019 audited Financial Statements. ii. Acknowledged the commitment of the FGC Members (Malawi (chair), Comoros, Eswatini, and Rwanda in delivering their mandate. iii. Directed that the debts from the non-payment of subscription fees by the Members (Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan) be written off. – <i>Done, with the mentioned countries notified of the decision through formal letters. It is worth noting that Somalia paid its subscription fees for the year 2019/2020.</i> iv. Directed that the FGC with the support of the ROCB develops a Debt Management Strategy. – <i>FGC and the ROCB working on the Strategy for submission to the Governing Council in 2019.</i>

No.	Agenda item	Decisions
		<p>v. Approved the operational budget of the ROCB with clear reviews to include cost regional activities, with recommendations on which budgetary items to be met by part of the reserve fund.</p> <p>vi. Approved the increase of member subscription fees by USD. 1,000. – <i>Implemented with a majority of the Members either topping up their paid subscriptions or making the full payments.</i></p> <p>vii. Approved the proposed remuneration of the ICT intern and the enlisting of the intern on a short-term basis until the finalisation of the comprehensive reviews of the policies that will outline models of staff recruitment. – <i>Implemented.</i></p> <p>viii. Urged the region to consider long term solution to funding the regional bodies (ROCB, RILO and RTCs).</p> <p>ix. Called for a comprehensive review of the proposed Hiring Policy and Investment Policy of the ROCB and requested Zimbabwe to take the lead with the support of South Africa in enhancing the Hiring Policy with Uganda taking the lead in enhancing the Investment Policy. – <i>Drafts developed pending finalization and presentation to the 25th GC for adoption.</i></p>
10.	Reports of WCO Finance Committee and WCO Audit Committee	<p>The GC,</p> <p>i. Acknowledged with appreciation the report by South Africa.</p> <p>ii. Advised Members who represent the region at various WCO Committees to always provide reports.</p>
11.	Presentation by South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF).	<p>The GC,</p> <p>i. Acknowledged with appreciation the report by South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF).</p> <p>ii. Directed the ROCB and the office of the Vice Chair to continue holding continuous dialogues with the private sector. – <i>The 4th WCO - ESA Regional Private Sector Consultative Group (RPSCG) webinar was held on 15th August 2019. It was attended by representatives from South Africa, Zambia, Eswatini and the ROCB. Various agenda items were discussed. They included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Progress since last Webinar; Ease of Doing Business - Trading Across Borders; AEO Programme;</i> <i>Customs IT-Connectivity; WTO-TFA;</i> <i>Bond guarantees for transit cargo and WCO Toolkit. The final report of the meeting is available on the WCO ESA ROCB website.</i>

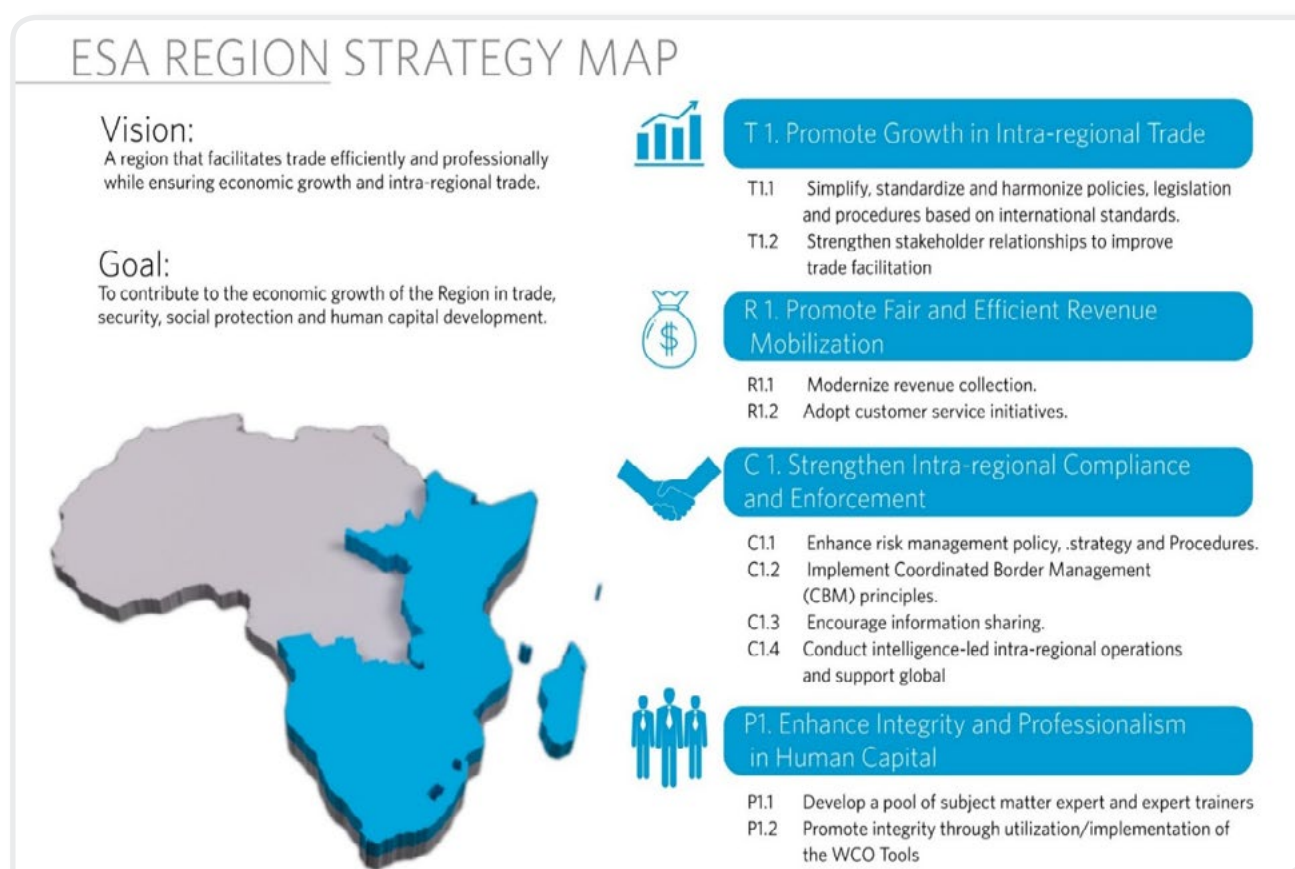
No.	Agenda item	Decisions
		<p>iii. Urged Members to enhance their cooperation with the private sector. – <i>Continuing.</i> <i>The ROCB through the sponsorship of the South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF) attended the FIATA Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.</i></p> <p>iv. Urged Members to continue supporting the Policy Commission in developing the Performance Measurement Tool.</p>
12.	African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) & TFA	<p>The GC;</p> <p>i. Acknowledged with appreciation the report by the AUC.</p> <p>ii. Noted with appreciation the invitation to all ESA DGs to participate in the upcoming AU sub- Committee meeting of Directors General of Customs scheduled for September this year in Kampala, Uganda.</p>
13.	Sotho Photo Contest & ESA Awards	<p><i>a). The participants voted for the Photo of the Year as follows;</i></p> <p>i. Winner – Kenya</p> <p>ii. 1st Runner Up – Zambia</p> <p>iii. 2nd Runner Up – Mauritius</p> <p><i>b). ROCB awarded the ESA Awards as follows;</i></p> <p>i. Member of the Year – Zimbabwe Revenue Authority.</p> <p>ii. Best Member in Communication in the Year 2017/18 – Comoros Customs, Union of the Comoros.</p> <p>iii. Best National Contact Point - Chabeeraj Hurry (Mauritius).</p> <p>iv. Best National Contact Point - Mr. Solomon Mathivhulula (South Africa).</p> <p>v. Special Recognition Award – Mr. Paul Barrack (Seychelles).</p> <p>vi. Special Communication Award -Burundi Revenue Authority</p>
14.	Closed Session	<p>The GC;</p> <p>i. Approved the extension of the Director's contract for the next 3 years' subject to Performance Appraisal by the Vice Chair.</p> <p>ii. Tasked the FGC to align the regional strategy activities to the project WCO ESA Project Action Plan to facilitate funding of the strategy in the next phase of the project. – <i>Certain activities aligned to the regional strategy, e.g. on Gender and Diversity.</i></p>

No.	Agenda item	Decisions
13.	Vacant positions in the ESA Region (Voting)	<p>The vacant positions were filled as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice Chair – Botswana ii. Deputy Vice Chair – Zimbabwe iii. Member of the Policy Commission – Mauritius iv. Audit Committee Representative – Comoros and South Africa v. Regional Governance & Finance Committee Representatives – Malawi, Rwanda, Madagascar and Zambia
15.	Hosts and dates of next regional meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GC accepted and expressed its appreciation to Zambia for offering to host the 31st RSG. ii. GC accepted and expressed its appreciation to Madagascar for offering to host the 25th GC and 32nd RSG in May 2020.

Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan

The ESA Regional Strategy 2019-2020 was operationalised upon approval by the 23rd Governing Council meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in 2018. The Governing Council tasked the Management Committee and the regional Finance

and Governance Committee 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.



The Strategy focuses on for key strategic objectives:

1. **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)

2. **Promote Fair and Efficient Revenue Mobilization.**

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.

3. **Strengthen Intra-Regional Compliance and Enforcement**

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.

4. **Enhance Integrity and professionalism in Human Capital**

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.

Updates

Various updates of the implementation status of the strategy have been featured in all sections of the report.

Status of Implementation of the Regional Strategy (as at October 2019)

Introduction

The ESA Regional Strategy 2018-2021 was operationalised upon approval by the 23rd Governing Council meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in 2018. The Governing Council tasked the Management Committee and the regional Finance and Governance Committee 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.

Below is the status of the implementation of the Strategy based on the Strategy Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix showing the progress in implementing the Strategy as at October 2019.

Implementation Matrix

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
T1.1	i. Encourage and assist Members' accession to the RKC and TFA	i. Include RKC Accession as an agenda item in Regional meetings	16 out of 24 Accessions. 8 Members Pending: BUR., COM. DJI., ERI., ETH., SEY., SOM., S.SUD., TZ.										
		ii. Facilitate briefings on the accession to RKC	Continued briefings to Members; WCO spearheading accession in Comoros and Burundi.										
	ii. Support subsequent implementation	i. Formalize participation in the Mercator Programme	17 out of 24 Members formalized participation in the Mercator Programme with results-based management and performance measurement as focus areas.										
	iii. Educate and establish cooperation frameworks of informal cross-border traders	i. Regional workshop for Members to share experiences in cross border trading	Workshop not yet planned due to funding constraints										
		ii. Consolidate case studies and best practices	Case study and best practices consolidated. Various research papers are continually published on the Regional website and are accessible to Members.										
		iii. Develop a communication campaign strategy	To leverage on the Communication Strategy developed by RSG outlining methods and frequency to progress.										

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	iv. Develop simplified procedures for informal cross-border traders that deliver better controls and trade data	i. Conduct a baseline study	Baseline study conducted, results consolidated. Aim was to establish the volume and value of unrecorded / informal cross border trade flows in the region, commodities, direction, compiling, and TA provided										
		ii. Carry out benchmarking exercises											
		iii. Business process review											
		vi. Stakeholder engagement meetings with the ICBT											
		v. Draft simplified procedures											
	v. Adopt joint transit management initiatives such as and electronic cargo tracking systems	i. Convene a working group to draft a business case for a single bond guarantee	Discussions firmed up that the WG to headed by Uganda, deputized by Malawi.										
		ii. Adopt a common approach to electronic tracking of transit consignments	The African Union Commission - WCO ESA ROCB workshop on Transit Management Systems in Africa, hosted by the South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), was held in Pretoria, South Africa from 6 th to 8 th August, 2019. Transit Management Systems workshop produced concrete recommendations touching on the Transit Bond Guarantee system, commissioning of a related study, adoption of the WCO transit guidelines, among others. The recommendations were adopted by the African Union Sub-Committee of the Directors General of Customs in their meeting in Kampala, Uganda.										
		iii. Risk management report on behaviors of international road conveyances	ROCB has reported on Strategic Risk Management behaviours and developed a Strategic Risks and Mitigation instruments document, outlined at regional and national levels across all strategic objectives. More studies to be done focusing on international road conveyances.										

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
T1.2	i. Establish cooperation framework for inter institutional alliances with the RECs, development partners and the private sector.	i. Develop and implement a working framework with the RECS to coordinate strategies and implementation plans	AU has a working framework for WCO and RECs. Request region to Adopt the AU framework.										
		ii. Undertake donor mapping, coordination and resource mobilization											
		iii. Establish a Regional Private Sector Consultative Framework	Regional PSCG established, ToRs developed, models defined with consistent communication, coordination and Webinars held.										
	ii. Promote Customs - Tax cooperation	i. Sensitize the region on the need for CTC (Workshop)	Workshop not yet planned due to funding constraints.										
		ii. Establish a Regional Customs and Tax engagement forum											
R1.1	Support members to effectively utilize WCO tools - the revenue package.	i. Modernize legislation in line with RKC.	Members continually modernizing legislation in line with RKC and undertaking various reforms and modernization.										
		ii. Automate processes	Members have automated their process and using different Customs Management Systems. Asycuda most preferred for its web-based accessibility, interfacing possibilities and availability of technical support.										
		iii. Implement HS 2017	20 Members have implemented the HS 2017. Focus shifting to HS 2022 edition. WCO availing support in implementing HS.										
		iv. Implement WCO revenue package	Members have implemented the WCO revenue package.										
		v. Support Members to utilize WCO tools effectively	Members receive continuous support from the ROCB. Members adapting newly introduced tools by the WCO.										
		vi. Build a ToT pool for the revenue package giving priority to Valuation, HS and Rules of Origin.	A ToT pool for the region has been put in place. Continued capacity building for French speakers by the WCO.										

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	ii. Promote systems integration with OGAs	i. Conduct survey on Single window implementation in the Region	SW survey conducted. 62% of Members have not implemented SW. Key implementation challenges cited include among others; commitment from other Government Agencies and other stakeholders, lack of technological infrastructure / automation and lack of funding (very costly).										
		ii. Establish engagement forums with OGAs	Continually driven at MS levels.										
R1.2	i. Develop a model service charter	i. Form a virtual working group											
		ii. Publish the charter											
	ii. Create a database of established advance rulings	i. Nominate a Committee to oversee implementation of Advance Rulings											
		ii. Draft the terms of reference for the creation of the Regional Advance Rulings data base											
C1.1	Develop a Risk Management model plan that provides a reference to review existing risk management policies strategies and procedures	i. Convene a virtual working group to collate existing regional Risk Management plans											
		ii. Draft regional Risk Management plan which includes regional strategy and policy, roles and responsibilities and tools											
		iii. Draft a regional compliance manual											

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
C1.2	i. Support development of coordinated clearance procedures	i. Conduct joint training / workshops											
		ii. Create a Committee to write policy											
		iii. Develop legal and regulatory framework											
P1.1	i. Increase the number of regional and WCO subject matter experts and expert trainers.	i. Undertake regional Training workshops (ToTs) giving priority to Valuation, HS, PCA and RoO.	A ToT pool for the region has been put in place. The ROCB and the technical team comprising officials from South Africa (lead), Mauritius, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, alongside the WCO developed the Evaluation Standards for the ESA Training of Trainer (ToT). Through the support of the WCO, workshops have been held for both English and Non-English speakers.										
		ii. Develop and utilize a database of the regional pool of experts.	Database developed and maintained at WCO level. Some experts have been utilized at regional and global levels.										
		iii. Congregate a forum of regional experts.											
	ii. Establish a coordination framework for regional entities and projects currently developing experts.	iv. Enhance and implement the existing coordination framework for regional entities and projects currently developing	The coordination framework has been implemented.										
	i. Promote implementation of the Arusha Declaration.	i. Carry out awareness programs (Sensitization workshop)	The African Union and the ROCB held a joint Regional Workshop on Corruption Risk Mapping. African Union's Directors General of Customs thereafter directed hosting a continental forum, greater collaboration among RECs and stakeholders, among others.										
		ii. Carry out continuous peer reviews to establish implementation status											
	ii. Develop and implement a regional integrity and anti-corruption framework.	i. Establish a working group comprising experts/mentors											
		ii. Monitor and report implementation											

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
P1.3	i. Establish a platform for Gender issues	i. Create and maintain an online ESA gender, equality and diversity forum	<p>In the process of development.</p> <p>The WCO continues to actively assist Customs administrations to achieve their gender equality objectives.</p> <p>The WCO launched its first e-learning module on how to advance gender equality in Customs.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to utilize this module which is available on the CLiKC! Platform.</p>										
		ii. Develop a Regional module on gender and diversity											
		iii. Conduct an annual gender, equality and diversity conference											
	ii. Develop policies that address gender equality and diversity	iv. Encourage members to draft and publish gender, equality and diversity policies taking into account SDG5											
P1.4	i. Develop Institutional capacity to undertake research	i. Identify national lead officials to be responsible for research	<p>National lead officials responsible for research identified.</p> <p>The list has been uploaded on the Regional website.</p> <p>The officials supporting the ROCB in promoting the growth of research in ESA.</p>										
		ii. Support officials to undertake training in research skills	<p>Members to be supported through the ESA Research Programme.</p> <p>It has been noted that while most Members have Research departments, sections or divisions, 87.5% of Members do not have a research section within Customs.</p>										
		iii. Draft regional guidelines that articulate ESA research standards	Guidelines have been developed and shared, outlining structures of research and research proposals.										

OBJ	Activities/Priority Areas	Tasks	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020				2020 - 2021				2021	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	ii. Identify opportunities to promote, present and publish research work	i. Create an online library for publishing research papers	Basic online library for publishing research papers put in place and available to Members on the regional website. Ongoing discussions though, to build a higher level repository for research.										
		ii. Register and participate in appropriate conferences	Members supported through the ESA Research Programme. Various researchers are currently taking part in the ESA Regional Research Conference.										
		iii. Seek opportunities to publish in internal and external Journals	The ROCB has published Research Books as a result of the two successful regional research conferences held so far. The ROCB continues to actively seek for more publication opportunities.										

Overall Assessment

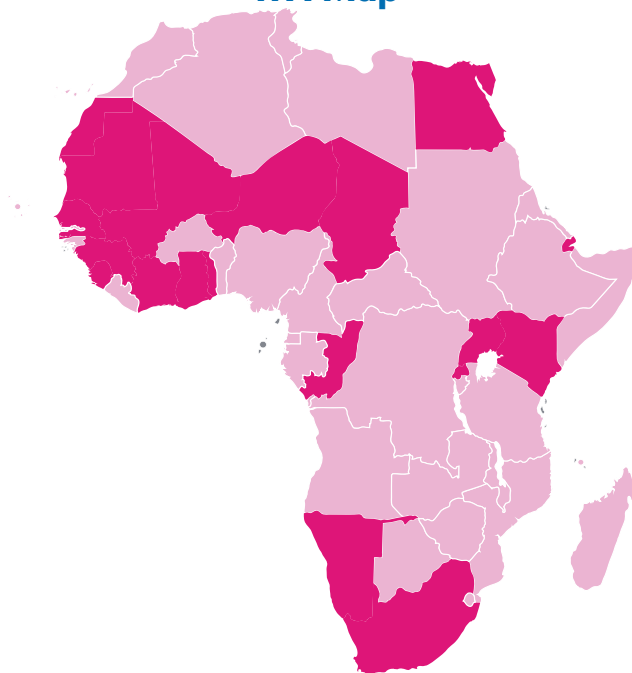
1. Most of the activities yet to be implemented require funding, which was not obtained during the period. The WCO did not organize any regional activity directly involving the ROCB during the reporting period. The African Union Commission, however, partnered with the ROCB in hosting highly successful workshops whose resolutions were adopted at the continental level by the AUC conference of Customs DGs.
2. Other activities are on track for implementation.
3. Most ESA Members are on track in implementing national tasks, with 18 out of 24 Members or 75% reporting progress in implementation of various national programmes.

Promotion of Trade Facilitation















Trade Facilitation Agreement











Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA): 146 WTO Members have ratified the TFA, including 17 from the Region's 24 Members. These are: **Mauritius, Botswana, Kenya, Zambia, Lesotho, Seychelles, Madagascar, Swaziland, Mozambique, Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Djibouti, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Angola.**

TFA Map



Status of TFA Ratification in ESA

COUNTRY	DATE OF RATIFICATION
 Angola	09.04.2019
 Botswana	18.06.2015
 Burundi	In process of ratification
 Comoros	In process of ratification
 Djibouti	05.03.2018
 Eritrea	In process of ratification
 Ethiopia	In process of ratification
 Eswatini	21.11.2016
 Kenya	10.12.2015
 Lesotho	04.01.2016
 Madagascar	20.06.2016
 Malawi	12.07.2017
 Mauritius	05.03.2015
 Mozambique	06.01.2017

COUNTRY		DATE OF RATIFICATION
	Namibia	09.02.2018
	Rwanda	22.02.2017
	Seychelles	11.01.2016
	Somalia	In process of ratification
	South Africa	30.11.2017
	South Sudan	In process of ratification
	Tanzania	In process of ratification
	Uganda	27.06.2018
	Zambia	16.12.2015
	Zimbabwe	17.10.2018

Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)













Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) remains a key tool of the WCO and anchors the implementation of the TFA. 120 Members of the WCO are contracting Members to the RKC.













15 members in the region have acceded to the RKC.

This are; **Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho,**

Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Eswatini, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

List of contracting Members to the RKC

No.	COUNTRY		DATE OF RATIFICATION
1.		Angola	23.02.2017
2.		Botswana	26.06.2006
3.		Burundi	In process of accession
4.		Comoros	In process of accession
5.		Djibouti	In process of accession
6.		Eritrea	In process of accession
7.		Ethiopia	In process of accession
8.		Eswatini	31.10.2012
9.		Kenya	25.06.2009
10.		Lesotho	15.06.2000
11.		Madagascar	27.06.2007
12.		Malawi	06.09.2013

No.	COUNTRY	DATE OF RATIFICATION
13.	 Mauritius	24.09.2008
14.	 Mozambique	11.07.2012
15.	 Namibia	03.02.2006
16.	 Rwanda	21.11.2011
17.	 Seychelles	In process of accession
18.	 Somalia	In process of accession
19.	 South Africa	18.05.2004
20.	 South Sudan	In process of accession
21.	 Tanzania	In process of accession
22.	 Uganda	27.06.2002
23.	 Zambia	01.07.2013
24.	 Zimbabwe	10.02.2003

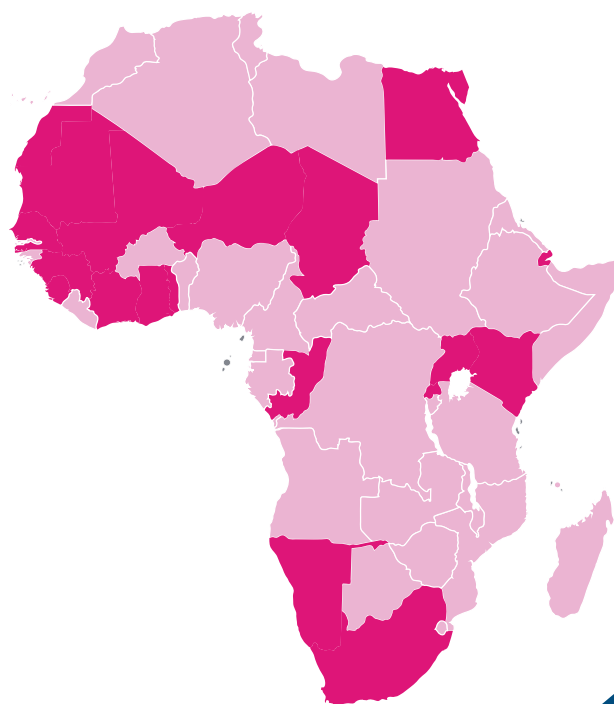
Africa Continental Free Trade Area

AfCFTA Operational Phase Launched

The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) entered into force on 30 May 2019 for the 24 countries that had deposited their instruments of ratification. This date marked 30 days after 22 countries had deposited their ratification instruments with the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson – the designated depositary for this purpose, as stipulated in Article 23 of the Agreement.

The 22-country threshold in conformity with legal provisions was reached on 29 April 2019 when Sierra Leone and the Saharawi Republic deposited their instruments of ratification with the depositary. To date, 28 countries have both signed and ratified the AfCFTA Agreement. Of the 55 AU member states, only Eritrea has yet to sign.

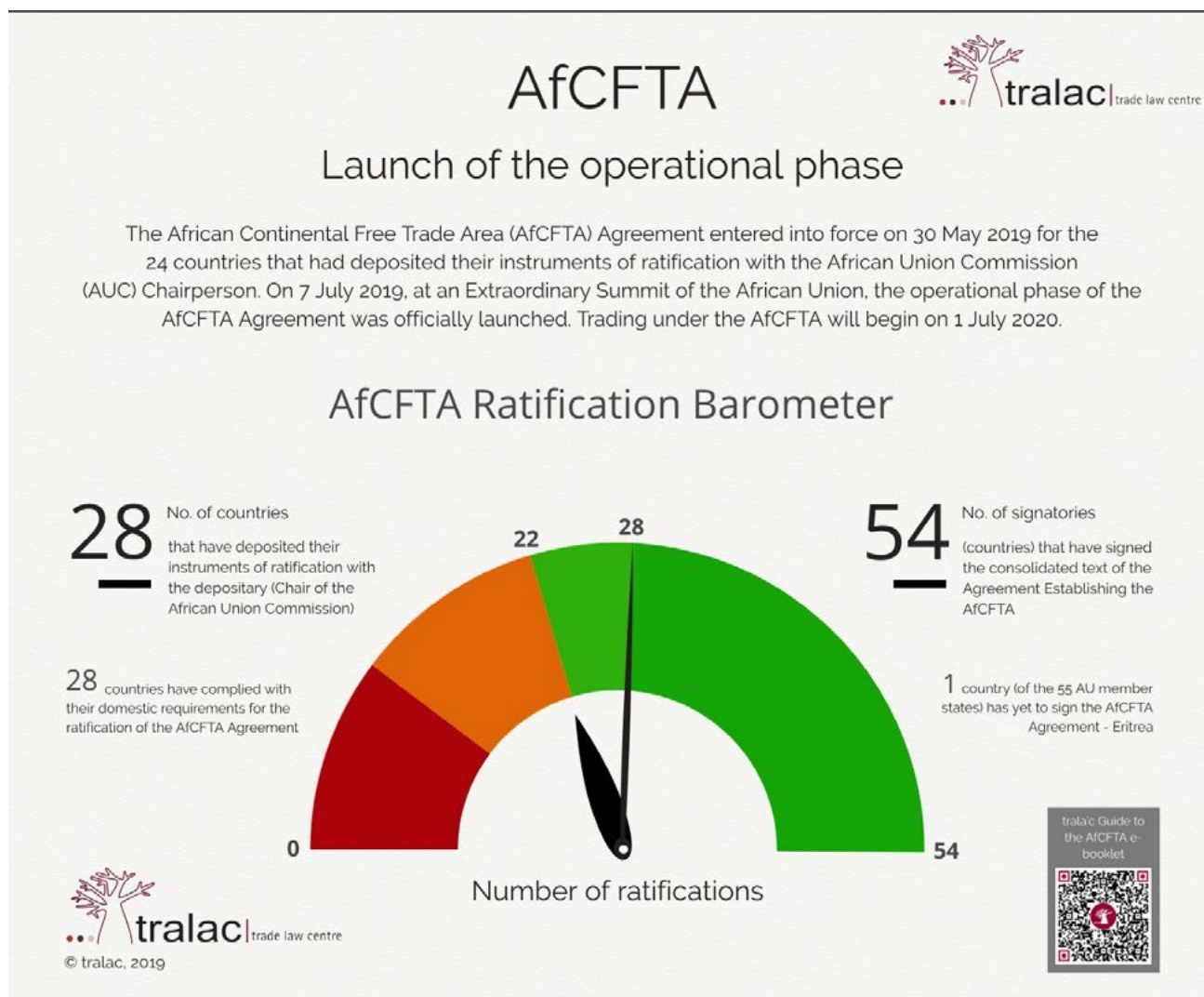
AfCFTA Map



The operational phase of the AfCFTA was subsequently launched during the 12th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Niamey, Niger on 7 July 2019. The AfCFTA will be governed by five operational instruments, i.e. the Rules of Origin; the online negotiating forum; the monitoring and

elimination of non-tariff barriers; a digital payments system and the African Trade Observatory.

It has been indicated that the start of trading under the AfCFTA Agreement will begin on 1 July 2020.



Source: tralac.org

Status of Members under MERCATOR Programme In ESA

October 2018

Introduction

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 Approach ensures results-based management and performance measurement forms an integral part of monitoring implementation plans and activities. The WCO capacity building operational platform is already tested and consolidated and it is at disposal of the Mercator Programme, including its regional structures (Regional Offices for Capacity Building and Regional Training Centres).

The Mercator Programme provides tailor-made support that takes into account local conditions and environment for implementing trade facilitation measures. The WCO moves on to this tailor-made assistance for countries that need strategic advice in the following manner.

- i. **Provide analysis of all previous needs assessments** by various organizations to consolidate a comprehensive plan and roadmap for implementing the TFA;
- ii. **Conduct TRS** to set baseline data for the future improvement, involving Customs, other government agencies (OGA) and the private sector;
- iii. Support the establishment of **NCTF** as a platform for coordination, including the planning, analysis and developing a reform plan for implementing TFA involving a range of stakeholders;
- iv. **Monitor and evaluate** the progress of the recipient countries in implementing TFA. Performance measurement, including TRS, is employed to ensure result-oriented assistance;
- v. Use the WCO forum to **collect and share practices** of TFA implementation in cooperation with the WTO;
- vi. Organize **regional/national donor conferences** to match the needs of recipient countries and donor funding.

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. 3. Capacity Building in Rules of Origin Mission – 25 to 29 March 2019.
2.	Botswana	No support received under Mercator Programme. The Environmental Scan/Diagnostic of Botswana Customs was undertaken by the WCO from 19 – 30 November 2018.

No.	Member	Support Received
3.	Burundi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National workshop on RKC 10-14 July 2017. 2. Diagnostic mission on CBM and Single Window 20-24 November 2017. 3. National Workshop on CBM and Single Window 12-16 February 2018. 4. TRS preparatory mission 9-13 April 2018. 5. National Workshop on Comparative analysis between the RKC and the national customs code 21-25 May 2018. 6. National Workshop on TRS data analysis and Report writing 28 January – 1 February 2019. 7. Mercator Program scoping mission conducted from 26 to 30 March 2019.
4.	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.
5.	Eswatini	<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> <p>As indicated above, the WCO successfully conducted two mission on 3-7 December 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Diagnostic • PCA Diagnostic <p>A Mission on Advance Rulings was held from 9-12 April</p> <p>A People Development Diagnostic is planned for 29th April- 3 June 2019</p> <p>Under the WCO-HMRC-UNCTA Eswatini NTFC received the first Module for the Empowerment Programme. During this same workshop the NTFC Roadmap was reviewed and definitive dates for Category C finalized.</p>
6.	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.

No.	Member	Support Received
7.	Lesotho	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TFA Scoping Mission, 12th – 16th November 2018, including a Follow up Mission, 27th – 29th May 2019 2. Lesotho NTFC Empowerment Programme Training Workshop through UNCTAD-WCO collaboration, 23rd -24th May 2019 3. PCA Diagnostic Mission, 18th -24th June 2019 4. Framework for Advance Rulings Mission on Rules of Origin, Valuation and Harmonized System, 10th -14th June 2019 5. Top Executive Retreat (LMDP), 20th -23rd August 2019 6. Lesotho e-learning Platform Development Mission, 23rd -27th August 2019
8.	Madagascar	No information provided
9.	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: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time Release Study, Risk Management, Single Window and Advance Rulings. 2. Advanced WCO PCA Training Package which took place in Malawi on 21 to 25 January 2019. 3. The WCO visited on 11th to 15 March 2019 for the National e-learning platform implementation. 4. The WCO carried out a People's Development Diagnostic Mission from 11th to 15th March 2019. 5. Top Executive Retreat for MRA top Executives on Leadership and Management Development from 25th to 28th August 2019.
	Mauritius	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support through the conduct of a workshop on 'Time Release Study' to develop in house capacity. As at now, two TRS have been conducted. 04 -07 April 2016 2. Support to Mauritius Revenue Authority to establish an enquiry point in accordance with Article 1.3 of WTO TFA. 06 -10 June 2016 3. Scoping Mission on the Setting up of a Customs Laboratory under WTO TFA for Mauritius. 08 - 12 July 2019
10.	Mozambique	Mozambique is yet to receive any support.
11.	Namibia	A GAP analysis on the Implementation of the TFA was scheduled for 22 – 25 October 2018.
12.	Rwanda	No information provided.
13.	Seychelles	The Mercator Scoping Mission is due to be carried out end of October beginning of November 2018.
14.	South Africa	WCO carried out a TFA Gap Analysis and Risk Management Assessment under the Mercator Programme from 10 – 14 June 2019 in South Africa. The mission covered the three areas i.e Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), Single Window (SW) and Risk Management (RM).

No.	Member	Support Received
15.	Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mercator scoping mission carried out. ii. Installation of National e-learning platform. iii. LMD Workshop. iv. Development of capacity in TRS. v. Support in Coordinated Border Management.
16.	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> <p>As part of capacity building for the Zambia Revenue Authority, a WCO mission facilitated a Workshop in Advanced Post Clearance Audit The training workshop was held from 9th to 13th September, 2019</p> <p>With regards CACP, WCO conducted a diagnostic mission between 3rd to 7th July 2019</p>
17.	Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scoping Mission to ZIMRA - March 2016 2. Review of Zimbabwe's Trusted Trader Framework - July 2016 3. Workshop on Intelligence-led Risk Management- August 2016. 4. Formulation of Zimbabwe's Road Map Towards Implementing the WTO TFA- August/ September 2016 5. Coordinated Border Management -August 2016 6. Workshop on Training and Talent Management Strategies- September 2016 7. Workshop on Test Procedures and Customs Laboratory Support - November 2016 8. Introduction to PCA Operational Guidelines Workshop January 2017, with a follow up workshop done in July 2017 9. Mercator Phase 1 Evaluation Mission- June 2017 10. National Workshop On Time Release Study (TRS) - 21st to 25th August 2017 11. Trade Facilitation Agreement focused e-learning support - September 2017 12. Project Management - January 2018 13. Benchmarking visit to SARS on PCA- August 2018 14. AEO Workshop -November 2018 15. Advance Rulings Workshop- January 2019 16. Risk Management- March 2019

HS Versions Implemented

No.	MEMBER	HS VERSION	No.	MEMBER	HS VERSION
1	Angola	HS 2017	13	Mozambique	HS 2017
2	Botswana	HS 2017	14	Namibia	HS 2017
3	Burundi	HS 2017	15	Rwanda	HS 2017
4	Comoros	HS 2017	16	Seychelles	HS 2017
5	Djibouti	TBC	17	Somalia	TBC
6	Eritrea	TBC	18	South Africa	HS 2017
7	Ethiopia	HS 2017	19	South Sudan	TBC
8	Kenya	HS 2017	20	Swaziland	HS 2017
9	Lesotho	HS 2017	21	Tanzania	HS 2017
10	Madagascar	HS 2017	22	Uganda	HS 2017
11	Malawi	HS 2017	23	Zambia	HS 2017
12	Mauritius	HS 2017	24	Zimbabwe	HS 2017

Regional Research Programme and the ESARR Conference

The 3rd ESA Regional Research Conference

The 3rd ESA Regional Research Conference – bringing together Customs experts, scholars, analysts, Customs officials, private sector practitioners, as well as aspiring researchers – was initially scheduled to take place in November 2019 but has been postponed to March 2020 due to the upcoming elections in the host country, Mauritius, which will also be held in November 2019 and as such they will not be in a position to host international delegates at the time.

The conference will focus on Opportunities presented by emerging issues in Customs and Trade. The papers presented at the conference will be published in a book.

Theme

The theme of the conference is

‘The effect of emerging issues on the role of Customs and Trade’.

The conference committee welcomed proposals of ongoing or completed research on the following topics:

- i. ***Cross-border e-commerce: Enhancing trade facilitation and impact of cross-border e-commerce on Customs and international trade in East and Southern Africa.***

Cross-border e-commerce refers to a phenomenon where consumers buy online from merchants, located in other countries and jurisdictions. Cross-border e-commerce has gained great momentum as customers purchase products from outside their borders.

Papers on this area should focus on how Cross-border e-commerce has enhanced trade facilitation as well as its impact on Customs and international trade in East and Southern Africa.

ii. Potential effects of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on trade and Customs in East and Southern Africa.

The African Continental Free Trade Area was launched on 21st March 2018 during an extraordinary summit of the African Union (AU) in Kigali, Rwanda. The version endorsed 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.

Papers on this area should shed more light on the likely impact that the AfCFTA would have on trade and Customs within the ESA region.

iii. Security and development: Challenges and opportunities presented by technologies and emergence of new trade practices and their potential effects on security.

Customs is charged with ensuring security at border crossings and ports as well as protecting the financial and fiscal interests of the State by ensuring the collection of international trade taxes on both imports and exports. However, the advancement of digital technologies, ushering in new business methods, has meant that Customs agencies have had to evolve to keep up with the new border threats brought on by the digital disruption.

Papers on this area should share experiences and best practices in the

area of security. Focus should be on the challenges and opportunities presented by technologies, the emergence of new trade practices, and their potential effects on security.

iv. Gender Equity, Equality and Diversity: Highlighting opportunities presented in the integration of gender practices and promotion of diversity in Customs and Trade in East and Southern Africa.

Gender Equality and Diversity are fundamental rights outlined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) from 1948, are considered prerequisites for achieving sustainable development and growth; and for enhancing performance in organizations. The WCO finds it essential to make Gender Equality and Diversity one of the priorities in its capacity building agenda and has launched various initiatives to that effect. Papers on this area should highlight opportunities presented in the integration of gender practices and promotion of diversity in Customs and Trade in East and Southern Africa.

v. Compliance and Enforcement: *Essential tools in enhancing revenue collection, safety and security.*

Customs aims to promote voluntary compliance to facilitate international trade and at the same time to control non-compliance through enforcement with the tools and equipment available.























Papers on this area should look at essential tools in enhancing revenue collection, safety and security as well as other ways of enhancing Compliance and Enforcement.

Utilization of WCO tools: E-Learning in ESA

The ROCB obtained statistics on the utilization of the WCO tools particularly on E-Learning from the WCO. 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.

The WCO regularly updates new courses on CliKC!! which Members are urged to encourage their staff to undertake to further capacitate them.

The table below highlights the number of registered and active user on the WCO CliKC!! portal from ESA.

Country	Registered	Active Users
 Angola	17	11
 Botswana	49	48
 Burundi	25	24
 Comoros	13	13
 Djibouti	17	17
 Ethiopia	14	14
 Eswatini	2 (18)	2 (18)
 Kenya	1 (219)	1 (108)
 Lesotho	148	148
 Madagascar	130	130
 Malawi	24	24
 Mauritius	54	53
 Mozambique	59	59
 Namibia	33	33
 Rwanda	53	53
 Seychelles	1 (54)	1 (54)
 South Africa	82	78
 South Sudan	54	54
 Tanzania	236	236
 Uganda	10 (38)	10 (38)
 Zambia	19 (55)	19 (54)
 Zimbabwe	75	75
TOTAL	1264	1250

Collaboration With The RECS and the African Union Commission (AUC)

The importance of collaboration with the RECs and the African Union Commission (AUC) in the implementation of the regional strategy has been stressed in all regional meetings and has also been covered in the regional strategy. As such, the ROCB has continued to engage the RECs and the AUC on various fronts, hold joint workshops as well as participate in their meetings whenever invited. Highlights of activities carried out during the reporting period are as follows;



Collaboration with the AUC

1. The AUC-ROCB workshop on Transit Management systems.

The African Union Commission - WCO ESA ROCB workshop on Transit Management Systems in Africa, hosted by the South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), was held in Pretoria, South Africa from 6th to 8th August, 2019. It was attended by participants from 20 ESA Countries as well as representatives of COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC, UMA, UNCTAD, GIZ, ROCB WCO WCA ROCB, WCO ESA ROCB and the AUC. The Transit Management Systems workshop produced concrete recommendations touching on the Transit Bond Guarantee system, commissioning of a related study, adoption of the WCO transit

guidelines, among others. The African Union Sub-Committee of the Directors General of Customs adopted the recommendations of the meeting during their meeting held in Uganda in September 2019.

2. Recommendations to AU Sub Committee of Directors General of Customs (AUSCDGC)

- The AUSCDGC is invited to note that Afreximbank has developed the Afreximbank-African Collaborative Transit Guarantee Scheme to facilitate movement of goods under a single transit guarantee with the ultimate objective of promoting intra-african trade.
- AUSCDGC is invited to urge the AU Technical Working Group on Transit to engage with Afreximbank and further explore the Afreximbank-African Collaborative Transit Guarantee Scheme with the view of examining further details and requirements pertaining to implementation of the guarantee scheme.
- The AUSCDGC is invited to commission a comprehensive study on the different transit systems existing and/or being developed with a view to consider determining an effective scheme for the AU.
- The AUSCDGC is invited to adopt the WCO Transit guidelines with a view of improving Transit management in preparation for the attainment of the African Continental Free Trade Area(AfCFTA).

3. The 5th African Union Customs Experts Trade Facilitation Forum.

The ROCB participated in the 5th African Union Customs Experts Trade Facilitation Forum which was held from 21st to 23rd August 2019 in Accra,

Ghana. The objectives of the Forum were to provide a platform to participants for sharing information on developments and endeavours in the area of Trade Facilitation as well as sharing of best practices in the implementation of Single Window in Africa.

The forum resulted in concrete conclusions and recommendations touching on the regional and national approaches to trade facilitation, the role of the private sector in trade facilitation as well as trade facilitation initiatives developed by partners.

4. **The 1st AUC Technical Working Group Workshop on Border Security.**

The ROCB participated in the 1st AUC Technical Working Group Workshop on Border Security held from 26th to 28th August 2019 in Accra, Ghana.

The Technical Working Group Workshop on Border Security produced concrete recommendations touching on: Continental Strategy on Security; ICT Infrastructure Development; Prioritizing Security; Capacity Building, Awareness & Sensitization; Legal Frameworks; Secured Data Exchange and Intelligence Sharing and Implementation of WCO Tools and Instruments.

5. **11th Ordinary Meeting of the AU Sub- Committee of Directors General of Customs Experts meeting**

The ROCB participated in the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the AU Sub- Committee of Directors General of Customs Experts meeting which was held from 16th to 20th September 2019 in Kampala, Uganda.

The meeting was held under the theme *"The Entry into Force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – Implications to African Customs Administrations."* and provided a platform for Heads of Customs to discuss the operationalization of the AfCFTA.

The experts also examined the works of various Customs Technical Working Groups over the last year, aimed at addressing the issues in the Trade Facilitation Cluster of the Action Plan on Boosting Intra- African Trade (BIAT) as well as considered the recommendations arising from the various expert groups established by the AU Sub – Committee of Directors General of Customs.



Collaboration with the EAC

6. **High Level Conference on Trade Integration in EAC**

The ROCB participated in the High Level Conference on Trade Integration in EAC from 25th to 27th September 2019 held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The conference was aimed at reflecting on the implementation of the Customs Union for the EAC, as well as reflecting on the achievements, challenges and measures to enhance trade within the block. Other key discussion points at the meeting included positioning of women and youth in business, illicit trade, digital economy and e-commerce, roles of RECs; SMEs, infrastructure development, resolution of trade disputes, among others. A key highlight of the launch was the launch of the EAC OSBP Performance Measurement Tool.

7. **WCO/EAC Common Fight Against Corruption Meeting**

The EAC Customs Integrity Regional workshop was held in Arusha, Tanzania. The workshop was supported by WCO, under the Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion (A-CIP) programme for Customs Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

The objective of the workshop was to discuss and assess the progress on the implementation of EAC integrity instruments in each partner State and revive efforts to promote culture on integrity and ethics among customs and other government Officials. The ROCB made a presentation on how it collaborates with the African Union Commission to promote integrity through workshops and utilization & implementation of WCO tools.

Newsletter Publication

The ROCB publishes quarterly eNewsletters and urges Members and stakeholders to submit their articles to the ROCB on continuous basis. During the reporting period two newsletters were published and shared with the Region and the global Customs family; April - June (2019) Issue and the July - September (2019) Issue.

The editions featured highlights of Member achievements in the half year 2019/2020 especially in light of the Regional Strategy, donor support, collaboration with the RECs and the African Union Commission (AUC). Other highlighted topics were on capacity building activities carried out in region, the ESA Regional meetings, ESA Awards, the ESA Vice Chair's visit to the ROCB as well as the 11th edition of ordinary meeting of the African Union Sub-committee of Directors General of customs in Kampala, Uganda.

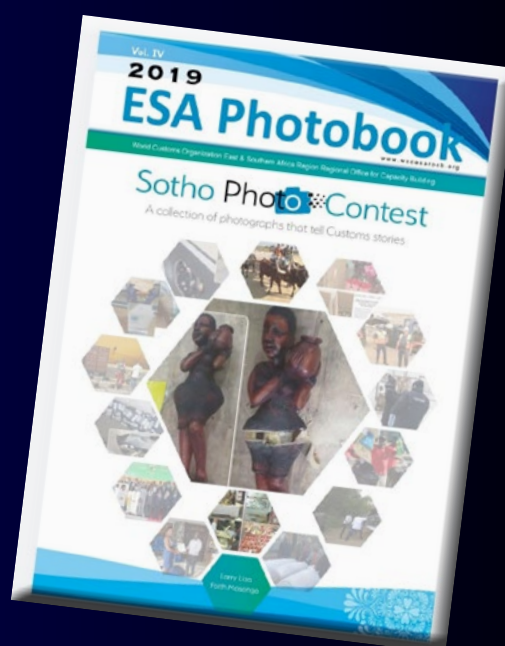


The ESA Sotho Photo Contest Book

The 2019 ESA Photo Contest saw 15 Members submitted photos showcasing Member history, activities and successes in exercising mandate. Kenya won the contest, for the third year in a row! As result will keep the trophy which is normally held on rotational basis for life as per the guidelines of the contest. Kenya was followed by Zambia (**1st runners up**) and Mauritius (**2nd Runners up**). The ROCB published the ESA Sotho Photo Book, 2019 and shared it with the Region. The book may also be downloaded from the Publications section of the WCO ESA ROCB website, or here:

<https://www.wcoesarocb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/WCO-ESA-PhotoBook-2019.pdf>

The ROCB launched the 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.



ESA AWARDS

Communication Award

As is norm the ROCB awarded the Best Members in Communication as well as the Best National Contact Points. This awards have seen improvement in communication within the region over the years. There was a pleasant surprise as Island and French nations filled the top spots in ESA in 2019.

The Best Member in Communication in the Year and Best National Contact Points are awarded a trophy and certificates during the Governing Council every year. This Year we recognised two leading Members, **Comoros** and **Burundi** for their swiftness, efficiency and effectiveness. Two National Contact points were also recognized for their exemplary communication skills. Burundi won the special communication award for being the most improved Member in communication.

Comoros has up scaled their communication with the ROCB and members, offering timely and conclusive responses while providing the ROCB with all information required, despite the language barriers, and improved in their communication from 15th to 1st.

Mr. Chabeeraj Hurry of **Mauritius** and **Mr. Solomon Mathivhulula** of **South Africa** won the Best National Contact Point of the year 2019 award. They have been fast, efficient and effective in communication, responding to all our matters as well as making necessary follow ups to ensure that all issues raised are addressed.

Last year, 2018, the ROCB introduced a special award in recognition of the Director General who has endeavoured to respond to all our inquiries despite their busy schedule.



The trophy and certificate were 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(Comoros) which was represented by Mr. Souef Kamalidini, Director General Administration of Customs, Union of Comoros.



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 (Burundi) which was represented by Mr Gérard Sabamahoro, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Burundi Revenue Authority.



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 Mr. Solomon Mathivhulula.



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 Mr. Chabeeraj Hurry.



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 and Mr. Valashia Phodiso, Ag. Commissioner General, Botswana Unified Revenue Services to the Winner Mr. Paul Barrack, Commissioner of Customs, Seychelles.



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 (Zimbabwe) which was represented Ms. Faith Mazani, Commissioner General, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority.

Mr. Paul Barrack of Seychelles won the award for the year 2019. Mr. Barrack has endeavoured to improve communication and acknowledges all mail from the ROCB, WCO and any Members. In spite of his hectic schedule, he steps in to ensure all national and regional matters are responded to.

Zimbabwe Wins Member of the Year 2019 Award!!

The ROCB Introduced the “**Member of the Year Award**” in the year 2018 to recognize the Member who has been consistent and steadfast in their support to the Region, the ROCB and Members.

Zimbabwe has been consistent and steadfast in their support to the Region, the ROCB, RTCs and Members. During the year under review, the Zimbabwe hosted key regional meetings despite going through a tough economic time, they also offered to host the RILO and has since seen its operationalisation. Their Commissioner General has offered impeccable leadership, including in the region. Moreover, its RTC has lead the RTCs and supported them over the last year in achieving their objectives.

Kenya Wins Again to Retain ESA Sotho Photo Contest Trophy!

For the third year running Kenya won the ESA Sotho Photo Contest by a landslide having submitted a photo showing Heroine intercepted by Kenya Customs Officials at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport concealed in wooden art/ sculptures. The consignment was destined for Greece.

As such, Kenya gets to keep the trophy permanently. This year, 15 Members submitted photos showcasing Member history, activities and successes in exercising mandate. Kenya’s submission was yet again overwhelmingly voted as the Photo of the Year 2019 with Zambia voted as the 1st Runner Up and Mauritius the 2nd Runner Up. All the photos submitted will form the ESA Sotho Photo book 2019.



A photo showing heroine intercepted by Kenya Customs Officials at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport concealed in wooden art/ sculptures.



The trophy and certificate were presented by Mr. 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 (KENYA) which was represented by Mr. Kevin Safari, Commissioner of Customs and Border Control, Dr. Fred Mugambi, Commissioner, Kenya School of Revenue Administration and Mrs. Agatha Munyaka, Chief Manager, Customs and Border Control Department.



Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Eastern & Southern Africa Report

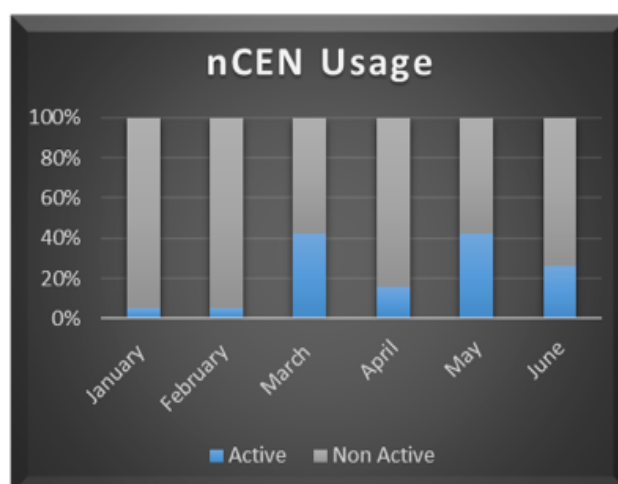
2019 Half Year Report Summarized Version

Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) Management

1. EN Usage

- 14 out of 19 member states recorded seizure cases in CEN during the period January to June 2019 representing 74% usage of the system.
- Usage still a challenges

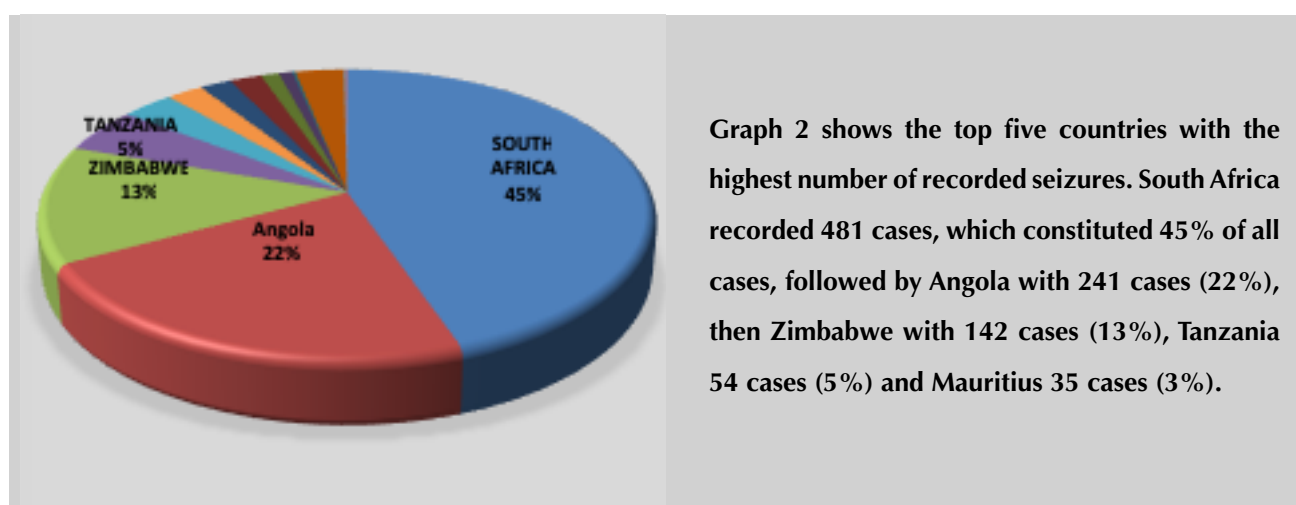
Graph 1: nCEN Usage



2. Seizures by Country

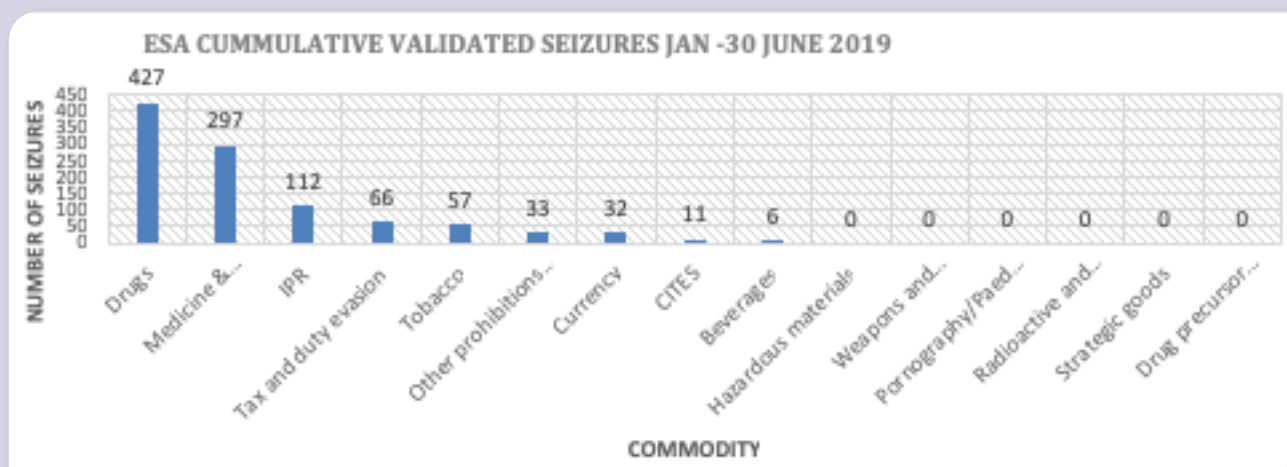
A total 1047 cases were validated during the period 1 January to 30 June 2019.

Graph 2: Seizures per country



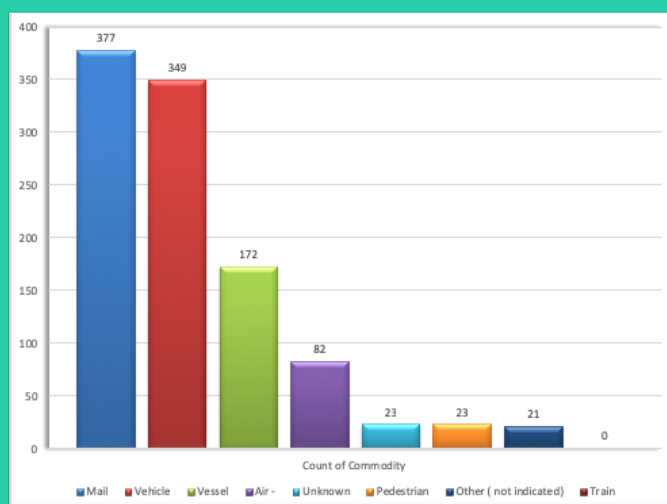
3. Seizures by Product type

Graph 3: Seizures by Product type



- The top 5 highest risk product types consist of drugs which recorded 427 cases(41%), followed by Medicines and Pharmaceuticals with 297 cases(29%), then 112 cases(11%)of Intellectual Property Rights violations, followed by tax and duty evasion with 66 cases(6%) and Tobacco with 57 cases(5%).
- The most significant seizure were 2 boxes containing 45kgs of Rhino Horns valued at USD\$627,132.00 seized at a South African airport on a flight destined to Mauritius.
- Drugs Category were second with 4.7 kg intercepted in South Africa with a value of USD\$ 93,343.

Graph 4: Seizure by conveyance



Graph 4 shows the distribution of the 1047 seizure cases according to method of conveyance. The most prevalent method of conveyancing that was employed in smuggling during the half-year period to 30 June 2019 was mail, which contained 377 cases. Vehicles followed with 349 cases, vessels 172 cases and air transport 82 cases.

Intelligence Products

Alerts

- 9 x WCO RILO ESA Alerts were produced

Analysis Reports

- 3 X Analysis Reports were produced
- Analysis report on the conveyance used in the movement of contraband across all RILOs
- Analysis Report on CEN usage
- An analysis of trade in illicit cigarettes in the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Region for the period 2015 to 2018.

Flyers

- 1 x Flyer was entitled "Know Your RILO" produced

Statistics Tables

Table 1: Validated cases / Active countries

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Total	Usage
 Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non-Active
 Eswatini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non-Active
 Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non-Active
 Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non-Active
 Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Non-Active
 Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	Active
 Zambia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Active
 Uganda	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	Active
 Madagascar	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	Active
 Botswana	0	0	0	0	1	8	9	Active
 Kenya	0	0	12	0	0	0	12	Active
 Malawi	0	0	21	0	0	0	21	Active
 Mozambique	0	0	21	0	0	0	21	Active
 Namibia	0	0	20	1	3	0	24	Active
 Mauritius	0	0	0	0	16	19	35	Active
 Tanzania	0	0	54	0	0	0	54	Active
 Zimbabwe	0	0	38	57	7	40	142	Active
 Angola	0	0	241	0	0	0	241	Active
 South Africa	26	125	89	85	60	96	481	Active
Total	26	125	496	143	93	164	1047	

Table 2: Seizure according to products

Commodity	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Drugs	21	112	76	80	54	84	427
Medicine & Pharmaceutical Products	0	0	270	12	2	13	297
IPR	0	0	112	0	0	0	112
Tobacco	5	3	10	6	6	27	57
Tax and duty evasion	0	0	15	27	4	19	65
Currency	0	0	1	0	16	15	32
Other prohibitions & restrictions	0	3	12	15	1	1	32
CITES	0	2	0	1	7	1	11
Beverages	0	0	0	1	2	3	6
Hazardous materials	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Weapons and Explosives	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pornography/Paedophilia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radioactive and nuclear materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strategic goods	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug precursor chemicals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	26	125	496	143	93	164	1047

Regional Training Centre (RTC) UPDATES

RTC KENYA



Training needs identified: Six (6) ECP related courses identified, scheduled trainings for roll out in October 2019 through RTC e-learning platform. Held two (2) meetings with Uganda Revenue Authority with objective, amongst others, to develop collaborative programs between the two countries to train URA and KRA Customs officers.

One (1) donor engagement done with Finish Project II Project Team on assistance needed to operationalize the RTC Kenya e-learning platform.

Post Course Evaluations of program and facility has been done 100% of all WCO programs hosted at the RTC.

One (1) training program and one (1) seminar held in 2019, involving EAC Partners States' Customs officers.

Meeting held in August 2019 with URA contact person based in Mombasa to gather info on training support needed by URA officers stationed in Kenya.

Local e-learning initiatives undertaken.

Local staff accessing and using CLiKC (utilization).

First KESRA research conference was successfully held in 2018. This year's KESRA research conference is scheduled on 27th-28th November 2019.

Number of RTC staff attending training and other HR development initiatives.

Additional Notes:

- i. Use of Regional Experts- Winfred Jillani, HS Expert was utilized to refresh Customs Kenya officers on Tariff classification of goods.
- ii. No funding proposals have been submitted to WCO or other development partners in this calendar year.
- iii. No statistics have been collected on the region in this calendar year.
- iv. WCO CLiKC usage information is yet to be obtained from Systems Administrator but we will update on this matter as soon as information is availed.

RTC MAURITIUS



- i. Use of regional experts – Twelve (12) Officers were released to conduct/co-facilitate/assist the WCO to conduct overseas workshops.
- ii. Any funding proposals submitted to the WCO and other development partners and the respective outcomes.

The SADC Secretariat was approached by the MRA Customs through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a view to obtaining funding of five trade related capacity building programmes, namely:

- i. Training on Non- Intrusive Inspection Technology System;
- ii. Training on Big Data Analysis;
- iii. Training on Investigative & Surveillance Techniques;
- iv. Training on Illicit Drug Detection; and
- v. Training on Laboratory Testing.

All the five projects were favorably considered by SADC and two projects, namely, items 3 & 4 above have materialized and funding has been obtained under the 10th European Development Fund as per the SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF) Programme, established between EU and SADC. It is to be noted that item 3 & 4 were merged into one project (Narcotics Investigation) and training conducted in February 2018 by the Drug Enforcement Administration, USA.

The remaining three projects (items 1,2 & 3 above) are still ongoing and training on Big Data is expected to be conducted by end of November 2019.

Furthermore, MRA Customs has put in a request for capacity building to the WCO on (1) Setting up of a field Customs Laboratory (2) Leadership and Management Development and (3) Training on Valuation.

- i. Any statistics collected on the region so far - N/A for the time being
- ii. The number of registered and active members of staff on the WCO CliKC! E-learning portal - 80 active users on CliKC platform and 351 active users on WCO e-Learning platform.

RTC SOUTH AFRICA



Use of Regional Experts.

Container Control Programme (CCP) Air theoretical training held in Maputo, Mozambique from 08 May 2019 to 17 May 2019 a joint initiative by the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO)

SARS Officer co-facilitated the session due to his recognition by WCO as an expert in the Air Cargo environment. The Course aims to establish a fully trained and equipped Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) in approximately 18 funded countries of which Mozambique is one of the countries. The training included Customs, Police, Intelligence and Wildlife Services.

10 the Session of WCO Virtual Customs Orientation Academy (VCOA) held from 02 September – 06 December 2019.

3 SARS Officers selected as Virtual Tutors, assigned to one assignment to assess the participants' individual performance and evaluate VCOA process that was held online through the Click Platform.

The number of registered and active members on the WCO CLiKC! E-learning portal.

There is an increasingly appreciation and demand for online learning solutions and this confirms a radical mind-set shift from traditional classroom training.

Of the 408 registered learners only 357 learners are active on WCO Click e-learning portal. Learners have a choice of either enrolling for the e-learning modules through Click or SARS Learning Portal. Currently 416 learners are registered and accessing the Customs e-learning modules through the SARS Learning portal. The total utilisation combining both e-learning platforms are 33%. We will continue promoting the benefits of utilization of the e-learning.

Enhance Research in the Region.

2 Research papers were selected each for both the ESA Research conference and the PICARD.

Curriculum/ Programme Development Initiatives

Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing Curriculum Development is currently being piloted.

Alignment of RTC work with Regional Strategy

One Project Plan was submitted for the Middle Management Development Training. One Project Plan was submitted for the Development for Experts in the Region. None of the project plans receive positive feedback.

RTC ZIMBABWE



RTC Zimbabwe found first half of 2019 very challenging due to economic problems being encountered in the nation. The RTC could not initiate any workshop due to financial constraints. However, a number of workshops were hosted by Zimbabwe though it was funded by various donors.

Below are some of the activities done by Zimbabwe.

(i) Use of regional experts

Not much was done in this aspect where Zimbabwe seconded experts to work in other countries. However, one of the pre-accredited officer will be facilitating Single Window workshop in Zambia from 4-8 November 2019.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe received a number of assistance from other Authorities. Seven sessions were facilitated by experts in PCA, Risk Management, Mining Audit and Telecommunications where experts from the region were key facilitators. 2 sessions were PCA, 2 sessions Risk Management, 2 sessions Telecomms and 1 session Mining Audit.

The Authority is looking forward to assisting other Authorities as well as being assisted.

(ii) Any funding proposals submitted to the WCO and other development partners and the respective outcomes

Due to Zimbabwe's political position, it is compromised in terms of getting donor funding. However, WCO through the Mercator programme has assisted Zimbabwe in a number of ways. These include capacity building and technical assistance in PCA, Risk Management, Time Release Study, and AEO. Zimbabwe went further to get financial assistance from the IMF and World Bank. The IMF funded a total of six training sessions which include 2 sessions PCA and 2 sessions Risk Management and 2 sessions Telecomms audit. The World Bank funded a Mining Audit workshop.

Zimbabwe is looking forward to having more funding for areas like Leadership Programmes, Time Release Studies, Blended E-learning, advance rulings, single window, data analysis just but to mention a few.

(iii) The number of registered and active members of staff in your respective administrations on the WCO CLiKC! E-learning portal

WCO CLiKC! E-learning portal is not fully utilised. There is still a lot to be done to ensure that an increased number of users are utilising the platform. Currently, a total of 133 officials are utilising the platform to the extent of writing examinations and passing them.

The RTC however, will embark on an awareness campaign to all officials through outlook platform as well as during facilitation of WCO packages like the Revenue package, Economic competitiveness, Compliance and Enforcement. This will go a long way in increasing usage of the platform.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe wishes to advise that it will remain supportive of the ROCB activities. Management will endeavour to source for funding which will enhance RTC activities in support of the Regional Strategy.

WCO ESA Project II Report

‘Project “To progress the trade facilitation (TF) agenda, within the framework of the WCO Mercator Programme in the East and Southern Africa Region 2016-2019”

Funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

On 8 July 2016, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland signed an agreement for the project: “To progress the trade facilitation (TF) agenda, within the framework of the WCO Mercator Programme in the East and Southern Africa Region 2016-2019” which addresses Customs Capacity Building needs in the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region. The agreement made available a grant of €3,000,000.00 from the Finnish government over a period of three years. A non-cost extension of the Project until 28th February 2021 to allow for full implementation of planned activities and subsequent utilization of the significant amount still available in the remaining budget was agreed upon between the WCO and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The period 1.10.2020 - 28.2.2021 would be dedicated to preparing the final reports by the Project Manager.

This Multi-Year Agreement is building on the previous WCO-ESA Project. The project has 5 components and is mainly focused on Trade Facilitation implementation, Organizational and Institutional capacity, Human Resource Management Development, and building sustainable regional expertise and autonomy.

For the period July 2018-June 2019, 27 national and 7 sub-regional or regional activities were conducted

(27% of all the WCO activities in the ESA Region). 19 national in English, 6 national in French, 2 national in Portuguese, 6 sub-regional or national in English and 1 sub-regional in French.

Some of the major project highlights over the same period include support for sustainable regional expertise which resulted in pre-accreditation of 4 technical and operational Advisors in the area of TRS (1 has since been fully accredited), pre-accreditation of 3 MPAs (All three are now fully accredited), establishment

of a Pool of 14 Experts in the area of ECP, activities conducted at RTC Mauritius in French are expected to culminate in pre-accreditation of HS and Valuation Experts, a workshop for 4 RTCs and ROCB and Project Staff on Project Management and Evaluation was held in Mombasa, Kenya. Training package on Gender Equality officially launched at the WCO Capacity Building Committee meeting in April 2019 and blended

training package piloted. 2 out of 4 pre-accredited Single Window experts were fully accredited.

For the period July 2019- December 2019, ten (10) of the fourteen (14) ESA supported countries under the WCO ESA Project II are benefiting from the multi-year (MY) tailor made WCO Mercator Programmes and 13 out of 14 assisted countries have benefitted from the national programme activities: Angola, Botswana, Burundi,



Comoros, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Seychelles, Uganda and Zimbabwe. All the 24 ESA Members have been invited and 6 of 'non-supported' countries have attended either Regional or Sub-Regional Events. The four countries that have not benefitted from the Project activities are Somalia, South Sudan (in-active countries of the WCO), Eritrea (not able to receive assistance due to internal reasons) and Djibouti.

Implementation planning

The project delivered a number of activities which include Time Release Study support, diagnostic on the establishment of a customs laboratory, Advanced HS and Customs Valuation workshop, Human Resource management diagnostic, Single Window, Pre-arrival Processing, TFA implementation planning, Top Executive Retreats, Advanced Ruling on Classification and Rules of Origin, Post-Clearance Audit control and AEO.

Under its first component, the project has supported countries in the implementation of Articles in the TFA. AEO support will be provided for Malawi in November 2019, so as to enhance compliance and promote inter-trade within the region. The Advance Ruling workshop held in Kenya was instrumental in the development of procedures for issuance of rulings, frequently asked questions fact sheet for the public and recommendations to management for the implementation of an Advance Ruling framework. Through joint funding support from the WCO-Finland ESA Project II and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) through GIZ, Kenya received support for implementation of Pre-arrival processing, bringing a higher level of predictability and transparency to Customs procedures hence improving the business environment and leading to increased competitiveness of the economy. To familiarize with process flow for import and export cargo, Uganda was supported by the project under a co-funding arrangement with Trade mark East Africa to conduct a road trip to Mombasa Port through Nairobi for TRS Process Mapping, which will be closely followed by support in data collection, analysis and publishing of

“

building sustainable regional expertise and autonomy for the region

TRS results. Mauritius benefitted from a diagnostic workshop on Customs laboratory, the setting up of which will allow Customs to act in an efficient and effective manner in taking decisions for clearance purposes and have a positive impact on further reduction on dwell times. The period also saw the delivery of a comprehensive TFA implementation planning mission in Botswana which established a holistic strategy for implementation of articles of the TFA. During the mission, full accreditation was granted to two experts from the region as Mercator Programme Advisors. Zimbabwe will receive support in Post Clearance Audit, acquainting officers with WCO Post Clearance Audit tools and instruments and taking them through practical step-by-step implementation of the Audit process.

The project will support Angola to build their organizational and institutional capacity in Single Window and Coordinated Border Management leading to the promotion of National and International coordination and cooperation among all relevant authorities and agencies involved.

Leadership development

The period saw considerable funding support given in the area of Human Resource Management and Development, with a People development diagnostic

mission conducted in Mauritius to contribute to the modernization of HRM practices and implementation of a Competency Based HR framework as well as supporting HR to play the role of a strategic partner. LMD Top Executive Retreats were conducted in Kenya, Malawi (co-funded with HMRC), where the program focused on personal leadership development, analysis and problem solving

related to current strategic challenges as well as the improvement of leadership and management capacities. An LMD workshop targeted at middle level managers will also be conducted in Uganda during the month of November.

The project aims at building sustainable regional expertise and autonomy for the region. On this front, the project supported a ToT Revenue Package phase 3 workshop in Mauritius, specifically an advanced course in Customs Valuation and Harmonised System Classification.

PSCG Summary Report

A note on the ESA-RPSG

The ESA-RPSG was formed for the purpose of verifying the implementation, monitoring and assistance of various instruments in the WCO Toolkit that will make trade easier without comprising or imposing a higher risk profile. This will also allow Private Sector to better articulate their challenges in regional integration and possible solutions for addressing the known obstacles effectively and create a safe, fair and compliant environment for all. (Special note: Country specific issues are outside the scope of the ESA-RPSG).

Progress update

No.	Description	Status
1.	Terms of Reference	Delivered
2.	Database for participants	In Progress
3.	Progress Report	Delivered
4.	Webinars	In Progress
5.	Events	Delivered
6.	Customs and Trade related matters in the ESA region	In Progress

1. Terms of Reference (TOR)

The TOR was circulated to all prospective participants before each Webinar. So far, no comments/suggestions and/or amendments have been recommended or made to the TOR. Consequently, the participants from the member countries consider the TOR as the agreement going forward. Progress on the TOR is therefore considered as concluded.

2. Contacts database for participants

A database has been created and continually updated throughout proceedings. Currently, the database contains around 140 contacts from the 24 member countries within the region. Some countries are particularly well represented, while others are not yet represented at all. The aim of the ESA-RPSG would be to obtain contacts from all of the respective countries. Progress on the database is therefore considered as ongoing (and will be going forward as more participants indicating a willingness to engage are added). The ESA-RPSG

therefore urges participants to independently engage with interested parties able to provide valuable input for the ESA-RPSG.

3. Progress Report

The quarterly Progress Report serves as one of the key deliverables of the ESA-RPSG. The reports highlight the most pertinent matters currently experienced by Private Sector throughout the ESA region. By engaging with various stakeholders throughout the region, the ESA-RPSG can collective voice and articulate pertinent issues to a broader audience who may be experiencing similar Customs Administration and Trade related matters in other parts of the region.

4. Webinar

It was agreed that the communication platform of the ESA-RPSG will be handled via webinar conferences (internet based dial-in conferences). So far, four (4) official ESA-RPSG webinars have been held, with participants from Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. These have included stakeholders from supply chain owners, role players in the extended supply chain such as, Freight Forwarders Associations, Customs Brokers, Truckers and Consolidators. Poor participation in the attempted second webinar resulted in an informal discussion. Therefore, the ESA-RPSG does not consider this webinar as an official communication between participants. Consequently, a second official webinar was hosted a week thereafter. Although the technical approach of the webinars will change somewhat, the webinar platform will be used going forward. The minutes of each Webinar meeting is available on WCO ESA ROCB Website. Below is a consolidated list of the engagements to date.

5. Events (engagements to date)

A number of important events themed around Customs Administration and Trade related matters have recently taken place in the region, notably the following:

No.	Event	Date	Venue
1	SADC Business Council under NEPAD	3 June	Gaborone, Botswana
2	Transit Management Systems Workshop	6 - 8 Aug	Pretoria, South Africa
3	Golden Business Forum	9 Aug	Kigali, Rwanda
4	Third Official Webinar	15 Aug	Online
5	AfCFTA Trade in Services	2 & 3 Sept	Cape Town, South Africa
6	African Union Sub-Committee visit	19, 20 Sept	Kampala, Uganda

Consolidated list of actionable items from the Webinars

Various important issues have been raised in the webinars to date. A number of Customs Administration and Trade related matters seemed to be repeated across a number of countries within the ESA Region. However, building on the mandate of the ESA-RPSG, the most importance respective issues are specifically listed below:

1. AEO Programs, alignment and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) in Africa.
2. Time Release Study for cross border transactions and the sharing of data with Private Sector.
3. Uptake of the WCO Toolkit and membership countries in the maturity of the different WCO instruments (i.e. SAFE, RKC, HS, ISCM, Risk Management).
4. WTO-TFA / with a linkage to Readiness and implementation of AfCFTA a. Articles that dovetail Customs Administration and Trade.
5. IT-Connectivity & Enablement of Customs Administrations to interchange data fields effectively in the ESA Region; which will result in a smoother trading environment, reducing red-tape and working towards a more aligned risk management system.

In depth, the key matters were:

1. AEO Programs

The uptake of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) within the region needs to increase. Fortunately for some of the countries within the region a certain degree of uptake has already occurred. However, for various stakeholders, the benefits of AEO are not particularly clear, especially for SMEs. These benefits therefore need to be articulated and linked with the WCO SAFE. The Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) also need to be communicated and monitored in order to realize their impact. Customs Administrations serve to gain greatly from any MRAs in the Region. Currently, Private Sector is struggling to understand the failure by Customs Administrations in not driving this critical instrument. AEO

is a promised program for the future, however AEO needs to be extended to all of the role players in the extended supply chain and

needs to have an impact on border crossings especially. Note Annex B listing the various AEO programs currently within the region, as well as their respective levels of maturity.

2. Time Release Study

Webinar discussions have highlighted that various participants agree to the importance of the monitoring and evaluation of Customs Administration and Trade related issues in the ESA region.

This assessment on the ease of operation in the ESA Region should be conducted on the basis of a time release study, which might include more than the measurement of efficiency across borders as in many cases it is not Customs Administration, but the total value chain from geographical border lines, cross border trade, terminals, transports, customs brokers, other law enforcement agencies, which are individually or collectively thwarting the flow of goods.

3. WTO-TFA / Readiness and implementation of AfCFTA

Globally, 145 countries (88.4% of the total number of WTO members) have ratified the WTO-TFA. To add to that, nearly 80% of the members in the ESA Region have ratified the WTO-TFA. While most members have implemented Category A, those in the ESA Region have not done so well and have not yet implemented Category B and Category C of the WTO-TFA. The ratification and overall readiness of the WTO-TFA can serve as a beacon towards the readiness and implementation of the AfCFTA. To date, nine of the 24 countries within the ESA region have ratified the AfCFTA.

4. IT-Connectivity & Enablement of Customs Administrations in the ESA Region

Customs-to-Customs connectivity and enablement has been on the forefront of Customs Administrations' focus lately. An initiative emergent from the WCO has been to connect two Customs Authorities through IT enablement. The concept is to continue with the respective inbound and outbound declaration, whereby two Customs Administrations would exchange their respective datasets with each other and established the level of agreement and harmonizing between the two sets of declarations. Within the ESA Region, a successful pilot project was run between South Africa and eSwatini.

The level of matching was as close as 99.99% on some of the traders. As a key matter to the success of future engagements, the project highlighted discrepancies between the outbound declaration and the inbound declaration. Future projects will be between South Africa and Lesotho, and South Africa and Botswana, which is currently awaiting roll-out. Subsequently Namibia has also come on board with live implementation expected in the next six months. The aim is to drive this project out to the greater region.

In addition to this initiative, the AU has also spearheaded IT Connectivity. At a customs level, the AU has held six meetings on IT Connectivity. In May this year, the 6th meeting was held in Mauritius, with South Africa and eSwatini sharing their experiences. The AU has subsequently created a Draft Bilateral/Multilateral Utility Blog Guideline for IT Connectivity for all administrations when exchanging information. The key recommendation was for the Utility Blog to be approved by the Director Generals of Customs. The WCO ROCB did a survey on the customs management

systems used in Africa - 63% of members are using ASYCUDA (Note Annex A), with other members using their own system. All members have invested heavily in the system. The important take-away from the survey is the need for the system to interact and share information.

Feedback from the WCO-PSCG

The WCO Private Sector Consultative Group meeting was held at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on the 24th and 25th of June. During the two-day meeting, the PSCG discussed its recurring work on the Comprehensive Review of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), Performance Measurement, the WCO Study Report on Disruptive Technologies – Exploring possibilities for PSCG contribution and Non-Negotiated Tariffs and Retaliatory Tariffs.

In addition, the PSCG reviewed the status of the WCO Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards and expressed its support for the Framework and its commitment to participate in any additional WCO work on e-commerce. PSCG members further contributed to a paper on Non-Negotiated Tariffs and Retaliatory Tariffs and their impact on business in which the PSCG identified a number of areas of relevance and possible actions by Customs. This report therefor summarizes the main points discussed during this two-day meeting with a prescient view of future work connecting Customs Administrations with the Private Sector.

Assistance for the WCO-PSCG

The following five items will greatly aid in assisting with C-2-B relationship with specific focus on monitoring and evaluation in the ESA Region. Efforts can be initiated to help developing strong partnerships, however the guidance is needed from the WCO-PSCG as this body was instrumental in the successful development and maintenance of the WCO-SAFE Instrument. This WCO Instrument found its value in the three pillars of engagement, C-2-C, C-2-B. C-2-other Government law enforcement agencies around the world:

1. **Innovative thinking** – for exploring and identifying the pertinent issues in the ESA Region
2. **Guidance** – on the ESA Region's approach in solutions around the pertinent issues in the region
3. **Best Practice Examples** – the work that has been done in other regions can be replicated in the ESA Region, therefore best practices should be identified
4. **Knowledge sharing** – taking the best practices from around the world and sharing them throughout the region
5. **Training** – increase the capacity building and awareness in the Private Sector

ROCB STAFF

Establishment and Contacts

During the year, staff that served the ROCB were provided by Kenya and South Africa, with virtual support coming from Botswana, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe. The current ROCB staff comprises the Director, one Programme Officer, Finance Officer, Administrator/PA to the Director and a Clerk. All staff are from Kenya.



Larry Liza
Director
larry.liza@wcoesarocb.org

The Scientist, Author, Poet, Motivational Speaker!

LARRY was sworn in as the Director of the ROCB in May 2016. Prior to this, he served at the ROCB as Programme Coordinator for 5 years. He is seconded to 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 and honours degree in Bachelor of Science from the University of Nairobi. He has various other qualifications in Customs, Information Technology, Management, among others. Larry is also a renowned poet who has performed globally since the age of 4 and a published author of two bestsellers. 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.



Faith Mosongo
Programme Officer
faith.mosongo@wcoesarocb.org

Another Top Honours Scientist

FAITH has been our Programme Officer since 2015, joining with 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 Kenya Revenue Authority trained Customs official where she gathered experienced at the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) section, focusing on the East African Community. Actually, she was the Alternate National Project Manager and contact of the WCO AEO in Kenya. She also previously worked at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).



Vincent Gituma
Finance Officer
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Economist, CPA, Investment Analyst

VINCENT is fresh blood in the region who topped interviews to join the ROCB in January, thanks to Kenya Revenue Authority which trained him in Tax and Customs before successful stints in valuation, border management and Projects. Before joining KRA, he worked as an Accountant/Finance Officer for Premap East Africa.

Vincent has a Bachelor of arts degree in Economics from Kenyatta University, a Masters' of arts degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from KCA university and holds certification as an Investment and Securities Analyst.



Judy Mwaura
Administrator & PA to Director
rocb@wcoesarocb.org

The Career Administrator and PA

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 nearly a decade.

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



Francis Ochiel
Clerk/Assistant Administrator
francis.ochiel@wcoesarocb.org

The Rugby Champion, Faithful Servant

FRANCIS is another addition into our stable having recently joined us from Kenya Revenue Authority, thanks to his excellent service and commitment to his work.

is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (Finance option)

He is an employee of Kenya Revenue Authority and plays rugby for Nondescript rugby club.



Erick Kaburu
ICT Intern
erickaburu88@gmail.com

ERICK joined the ROCB as an ICT intern in September 2017. He is a holder of a Bachelor's degree in Business Information Technology from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and credited for the advancements seen in the ESA website and ICT systems over the last 2 years. He previously worked at CIC Insurance (Systems support) and COSEKE Kenya (Project Bureau Supervisor).



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