Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL FAQs

What is the East African Community?

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community was signed in 1999 and it entered into force in 2000 following its ratification by the Partner States.

What are the areas of co-operation between the Partner States?

The regional co-operation and integration envisaged in the East African Community is wide ranging, involving co-operation in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research, technology and skills development, defence, security and legal affairs for mutual and equitable development in the region.

How is the East African Community managed?

The main organs of the East African Community are the Summit of Heads of State, the Council of Ministers, the Co-ordination Committee, the East African Court of Justice, the East African Legislative Assembly, and the Secretariat.

Autonomous institutions of the Community include the East African Development Bank, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation and the Inter-University Council for East Africa.

What are the aims and objectives of the East African Community?
Frequently Asked Questions

The East African Community aims at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in, among others, political, economic and social fields for their mutual benefit. To this extent there shall be established a Customs Union as the entry point of the Community, a Common Market, subsequently a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation of the East African States.

How do I find a report, protocol or publication I'm looking for?

EAC reports or publications that have been made available online are organised by sector. That means if you are looking for a report on a subject that is health-related, you will access it from the dedicated EAC Health website [select from 'EAC Websites' on the menu of links at the top].

However, there's an index of all documents that has been developed and is accessible here. Reports posted to these websites may not be signed, even if they are an accurate representation of the signed equivalent. For signed copies, contact the EAC Reports Database service.

EAC EMBLEMS

What do the colours in the EAC Flag represent?

The blue background (representing Lake Victoria) signifies the unity of the EAC Partner States, while the white, black, green, yellow and red represent the different colours of the flags of each of the EAC Partner States.

When did the EAC get an anthem?

The EAC Anthem was adopted by the EAC Summit of Heads of State during their 12th Ordinary Meeting held on 3 December 2010 in Arusha, Tanzania. The Anthem is in Kiswahili and has three stanzas. Both choral and brass versions are available on this website.

During which occasions is the EAC Anthem be played?

East Africans citizens can sing or play the Anthem on occasions of regional significance. The Anthem ia also played or sung on any of the following occasions: EAC Summit meetings; EAC Council meetings; commemoration of EAC days; when a Head of State addresses EALA; opening of EALA Sessions; opening of the EACJ Law Year; and on national occasions in Partner States.

How is the Anthem applied?

All three stanzas of the Anthem are played at EAC Summit meetings and EAC Commemoration days. Two stanzas are played at any occasion of the Community where a Head of State is present. At any other occasion only one stanza of the Anthem is played. See Guidelines on EAC Anthem use here.
SEE EAC SECTOR-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

Office of the Secretary General
Travelling in East Africa
Investing in East Africa
Questions on the Common Market

FAQs ABOUT THE EAC CUSTOMS UNION:

Transit Goods
Manufacture Under Bond (MUB)
Export Processing Zones
Customs Agent
EAC Customs Offences
Prohibited & Restricted Goods
Warehousing
EAC Rules of Origin