THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY

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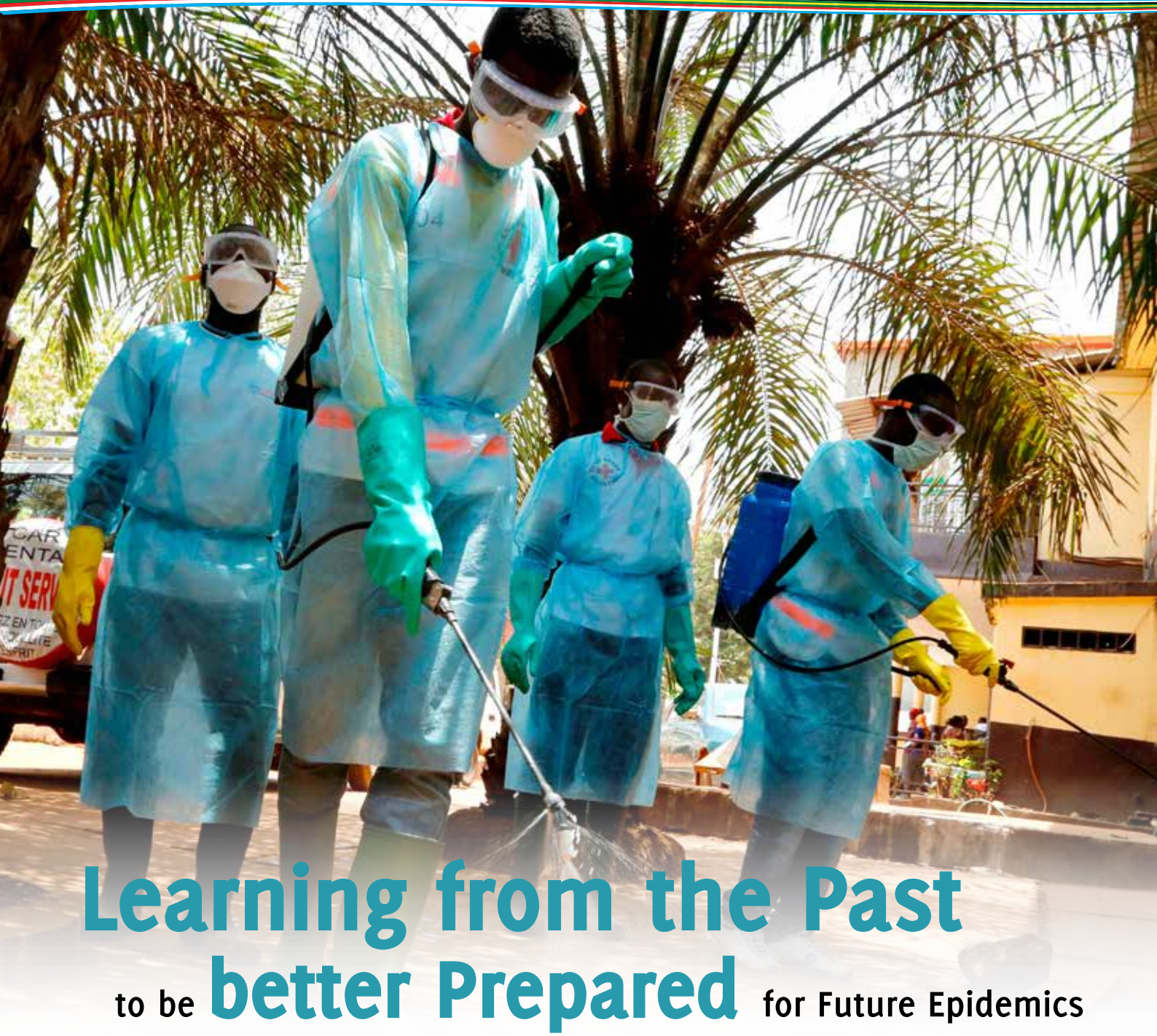

Learning from the Past to be better Prepared for Future Epidemics

IN THIS ISSUE

CONTENTS

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Moving Towards a Lower-Middle Income Region by 2021

EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko

Almost 6 years ago, the East African Community began a new phase on its journey towards deeper and wider integration through the implementation of its 4th Development Strategy. With that Strategy, the Community is now more vibrant and dynamic, upholding its mantra of being "people-centred" and "market-driven."

Today, the Community has a vision, the EAC Vision 2050. The EAC Vision 2050 lays out a broad perspective in which the region optimizes the utilization of its resources to accelerate productivity and the social well-being of it people. It portrays a future East Africa with rising personal prosperity in cohesive societies, competitive economies and strong inter-regional interaction. It is envisaged that by the year 2050, per capita incomes will grow ten-fold to US$10,000 thereby moving the region into the upper-middle class category.

The EAC has ambitious plans to translate its current gains to sustained high-level growth and sustainable development for the region. Our Community has been recognized as one of the fastest growing regional economic communities in Sub-Saharan Africa – having recorded an average GDP growth rate of 6.2% in 2015. This improved economic performance is expected to significantly spark renewed interest in regional investment and trade. A more integrated market is expected to stimulate the productive capacity required to develop regional value chains thereby enhancing output of value-added products and product diversification as well as job creation.

Although the goals of the 4th EAC Development Strategy have been largely achieved, the implementation of the Strategy suffered from inadequate financial resources. Development Partners were instrumental in the implementation of the strategy through their contributions to the EAC Budget over the last five (5) years.

As we march towards achieving the goals set in the Vision 2050, we have developed the 5th EAC Development Strategy. Guided by the EAC Vision 2050, the overall goal of the 5th Development Strategy is to build a firm foundation for transforming the East African Community into a stable, competitive and sustainable lower-middle income region by 2021.

In order to achieve this, the 5th Development Strategy has seven key Priority Areas that we shall address over the next five years:

- Consolidation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods, including agricultural and other widely consumed products;
- Infrastructure development in the region;
- Enhancing free movement of all factors of production and other areas of cooperation across the Partner States as envisaged under the Common Market and Monetary Union Protocols;
- Enhancement of regional industrial development through investment in key priority sectors, skills development, technological advancement and innovation to stimulate economic development;
- Improvement of agricultural productivity, value addition and facilitation of movement of agricultural goods to enhance food security in the region;
- Promotion of regional peace, security and good governance, and;
- Institutional transformation at the regional and Partner State levels.

It is my belief that with continued support, dedication and stronger collaborations from all our stakeholders, the EAC is assured of this firm foundation and prosperity.

Amb Liberat Mfumukeko
Secretary General
East African Community

Tripartite FTA Signatures Rise to 21 as Mauritius Signs

Mauritius signed the COMESA- EAC – SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area agreement on 9th October 2017. This brings to 21 out of the 26 countries that have signed the regional trade framework. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Hon. Minister Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo signed the agreement in Eben Cybercity in Mauritius. The signing was witnessed by COMESA Secretary General, Sindiso Ngwenya.

The tripartite agreement was launched in June 2015. Currently only Egypt and Uganda have signed and ratified the agreement. A minimum of 14 countries are required to ratify the agreement for it to come into force.

The agreement has the potential to unlock sustainable development in Africa by bringing close to 700 million people in one market with a gross domestic product of $1.4 trillion. For this to happen, the approach to negotiations on tariffs and market access which lead to signing and ratification must change.

It was envisaged when the tripartite was mooted, that it would take three years to complete negotiations and come into force since the three regional economic communities all had FTAs.

COMESA Secretary General called upon governments to involve their respective private sectors in the consultations, as these were the key drivers of regional trade that will give impetus to the tripartite process. These include the small and medium enterprises, which are expected to drive the industrial pillar, one of the three pillars of the tripartite. The others are market integration and infrastructure development.

Mauritius' current strategy for Africa is for deeper integration and the signing of the Tripartite FTA was a demonstration of this commitment. The government is optimistic on the benefits it will accrue from the tripartite given the country's vibrant and proactive private sector

African Countries Losing 5% Revenue due to Inefficient Border Procedures

By The Community Team

Revenue losses from inefficient border procedures in some African countries are estimated to exceed 5% of the Gross Domestic Product, a Roundtable Conference on Trade Facilitation (TF) held at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, was told.

Citing a 2013 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) study, Mr. James Kisaale, an Assistant Commissioner with the Uganda Revenue Authority, said that reducing global trade costs by 1% would increase worldwide income by more than US$ 40 billion, with developing countries being the biggest beneficiaries.

Kisaale said the areas that would contribute the most to lowering trade costs in Sub-Saharan Africa were formalities, namely automation, the simplification and harmonisation of documents, and information availability.

Kisaale was speaking during the opening session of the one-day roundtable on trade facilitation which brought together EAC Development Partners as well as Customs and Trade experts from the EAC Secretariat and Partner States' Ministries of Trade.

The EAC Secretariat organised the Roundtable Conference to review and fast-track the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). The Conference brought together Development Partners who will work with the EAC in the implementation of the TFA.

Opening the roundtable, the EAC Director General (Customs and Trade), Mr. Kenneth Bagamuhunda, said that TF was an integral part of the EAC Customs Union Protocol, which explicitly provides for reduction in the number and volume of trade documents.

"TF also provides for the adoption of common standards of trade documentation and procedures, coordination and facilitation of trade and transport activities. There is also the reviewing of procedures adopted in international trade and transport facilitation with a view to simplifying and adopting them for use in the EAC," said Bagamuhunda.
An EAC Trade and Facilitation Sub-Committee has been established to, among other things, supervise the implementation of the WTO TFA at regional and national levels, while Regional and National Implementation Plans for the WTO TFA have been finalized and adopted by the respective Policy organs. In addition, amendments of regional laws, regulations and procedures; development of project proposals for resource mobilization, and; sensitization of stakeholders is currently underway.

Premised on the use of electronic systems, the Single Customs Territory (SCT) provides for the free circulation of goods, reduces cost of doing business, reduces Non-Tariff Barriers, ensures competitiveness, boosts business predictability and promotes investment. To this end, the SCT and the interconnectivity of customs systems among some of the key TFA components has been implemented by the EAC.

Other components already implemented are: the establishment of One-Stop Border Posts; harmonisation of standards, reduction of Non-Tariff Barriers, and; publication of the EAC Trade and Investment report.

EAC's Development Partners believe that bureaucratic delays and 'red tapes' pose an unnecessary and expensive burden for moving goods across borders for traders. Nations like Switzerland have expressed their readiness to assist developing countries diversify their exports and tap into global value chains.

Switzerland has so far disbursed US$ 3.5 million as part of her contribution to the TFA's Trade Facilitation Support Programme, a multi-donor programme of the World Bank Group's Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice that provides support for countries seeking assistance in aligning their trade practices with the WTO TFA.

"Every country is eligible to receive support under the programme. Eligible countries are expected to have demonstrated a strong commitment to implementing trade facilitation reforms in the areas covered by the WTO TFA. Moreover, the support programme will prioritize assistance to countries with limited access to other donor support," said Amb. Arthur Mattli, Switzerland's Representative to the EAC.

HIGHLIGHT

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) entered into force on 22nd February 2017, following its ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the WTO membership, including two EAC Partner States Kenya and Rwanda. The TFA contains among others, provisions relating to the transparency, expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. The agreement also sets out measures for effective cooperation between Customs and other border agencies on trade facilitation, customs and trade compliance issues.

The Benefits
Of Africa's New Free Trade Area

By Calestous Juma and Francis Mangeni

Dr. Calestous Juma is Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Kennedy School.

The creation in June 2015 of a free trade area from Cape Town to Cairo is possibly the most significant event in Africa since the formation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963. It is a grand move to merge existing regional organizations into a single African Economic Community. The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) includes the 26 countries that are members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), and Southern African Community (SADC). The TFTA covers a population of 632 million and a combined GDP of $1.3 trillion. The area spans 17.3 million square kilometers, which is nearly twice the size of China or the United States.

Critics argue a single trading bloc will not work where individual sub-regional ones have failed. To the contrary, the consolidation of the three trading blocs will build on previous trade gains and will result in the whole being larger than the sum of its parts.

Between 2004 and 2014 trade within the COMESA region grew from US$ 8 billion to US$ 22 billion. Over the same period trade within SADC grew from US$ 20 billion to US$ 72 billion and for EAC it rose from US$ 2.6 to 8.6 billion. The overall trade between the three areas rose from US$ 30.6 billion to US$ 102.6 billion over the same period.

Despite the growth, only about 12% of Africa's trade is intra-regional. It is 22% for South America, 40% for North America, 50% for Asia and 70% for Western Europe. The tariff liberation of 60–85% will have a significant impact in facilitate the cross-border flow of goods and services.

The TFTA will benefit Africa in at least six mutually reinforcing ways. First, the conclusion of the agreement will generate the impetus for the creation of similar arrangements in western Africa, bringing economic powerhouses such as Nigeria into a continental free trade area. In fact, negotiations for an overarching agreement were launched in 2015, with the projected creation of an Africa-wide free market in the future.

Second is a much larger market whose free flow of goods and services will help to maintain economic growth at 6–7% per year. At this rate the combined GDP of Africa is projected to reach US$ 29 trillion by 2050, which would be equal to the current combined GDP of the EU and the US. With additional policies, such growth will contribute significantly to spreading prosperity and reducing poverty.

Third, the TFTA will serve as an impetus for investment in Africa's cross-border infrastructure. It is estimated that Africa needs to invest nearly US$ 100 billion annually in infrastructure over the next decade. Less than half of this target is met currently. One of the reasons for the low level of investment has been poor coordination across the different trading blocs. Building infrastructure will also create additional jobs and foster the development of engineering services.

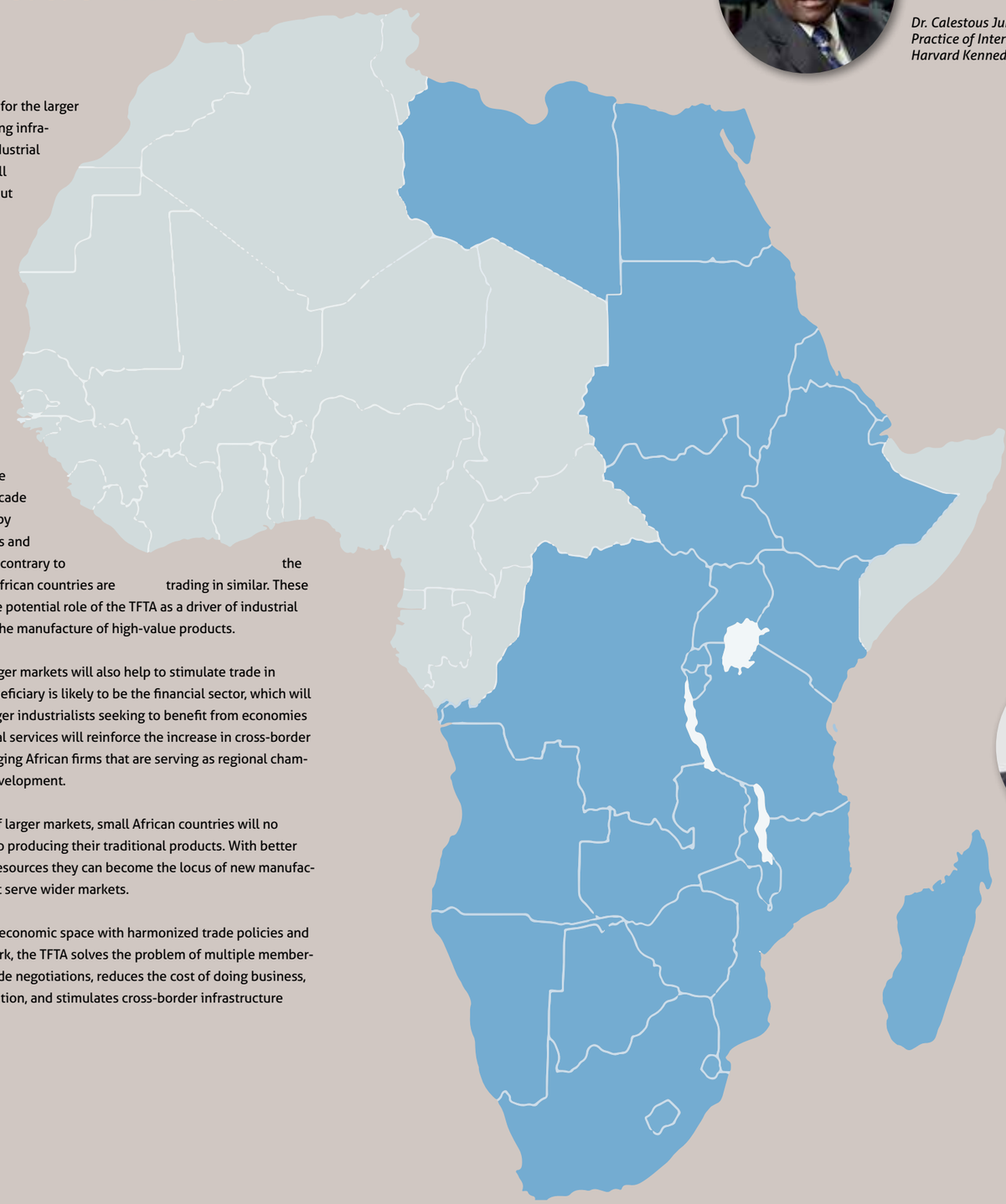
Fourth, the prospects for the larger markets and supporting infrastructure will spur industrial development. This will not only create jobs but it will also have the added advantage of diversifying Africa's economies that are largely dependent on raw materials. The associated technological development will lead to the creation of new industries.

Trade among the three blocs over the last decade has been dominated by intermediate products and manufactured goods, contrary to the common belief that African countries are trading in similar. These trends underscore the potential role of the TFTA as a driver of industrial development and in the manufacture of high-value products.

Fifth, the signal of larger markets will also help to stimulate trade in services. The first beneficiary is likely to be the financial sector, which will be able to lend to larger industrialists seeking to benefit from economies of scale. Such financial services will reinforce the increase in cross-border investments by emerging African firms that are serving as regional champions of industrial development.

Sixth, by being part of larger markets, small African countries will no longer be restricted to producing their traditional products. With better policies and human resources they can become the locus of new manufacturing operations that serve wider markets.

By providing a single economic space with harmonized trade policies and a regulatory framework, the TFTA solves the problem of multiple memberships, rationalizes trade negotiations, reduces the cost of doing business, supports industrialization, and stimulates cross-border infrastructure projects.



There are critical lessons for future negotiations from the process. First is political will. This was demonstrated by the decision of presidents to approve a work program, create a roadmap for negotiations and stick to the timetable. The work was done through technical groups. Trade and Industry ministers met three times over the four-year period to agree on the consolidations, review progress and adopt the outcomes. The presidents met twice to launch negotiations in 2011 and to sign the agreement and launch the TFTA on June 10, 2015.

A second lesson is the importance of a continuous learning process and experimentation. The three trading blocs served as laboratories that generated lessons for technical negotiations. The importance of incremental learning has prompted COMESA to establish a school of regional integration that started its operations in 2015. The school serves as a platform for sharing lessons learned through integration.

The TFTA is a key landmark in Africa's economic history. It ranks in significance with the independence of Ghana in 1957, the creation of the Organisation for African Unity in 1963, and its reinvention as the African Union in 2002. To paraphrase Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president, the best way to learn to be a continental free trade area is to be a continental free trade area.

Dr. Francis Mangeni is Director of Trade, Customs and Monetary Affairs at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia.

This article draws from their book, Trading Up: Africa's Regional Economic Integration.

The East African Monetary Union
A Status Update

By Pantaleo Kessy

In November 2013, the EAC Partner States signed a Protocol setting out the process and convergence criteria for attainment of a Monetary Union in the EAC region over a period of 10 years. The envisaged Monetary Union is expected to be in place by 2024 with the introduction of a common currency to replace the national currencies and the establishment of a regional central bank to be known as East Africa Central Bank (EACB).

According to the Protocol, the transition to the East African Monetary Union is conceptualised as a two-phase process. In the initial convergence phase, the Partner States are to work towards achieving preconditions designed to limit the union's exposure to internal economic strains. These preconditions include macroeconomic convergence criteria, full implementation of the Common Market Protocol, establishment of institutions to support the Monetary Union and harmonization of policies and practices. When these preconditions have been satisfied, the Partners will enter the final, conversion phase, marked by the announcement of a predetermined date for formation of the Union.

Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria

According to the EAMU Protocol, the EAC Partner States have agreed on a set of 4 primary convergence criteria, which member countries must attain and maintain for at least 3 years before joining the Monetary Union. These include:

- A ceiling on headline inflation of 8%
- Reserve cover of 4.5 months of import
- A ceiling on the overall deficit of 3% of GDP, including grants
- A ceiling on gross public debt of 50% of GDP in net present value terms.

Assessment of progress towards achieving the primary convergence criteria shows that in 2016, the most recent year for which data is available, annual headline inflation in all countries, (except South Sudan) was below the 8% criterion. Also during the same year, all EAC countries had debt to GDP ratios below 50% of GDP (except the Republic of Kenya whose debt to GDP ratio was above the ceiling of 50% of GDP). However, regarding the reserve cover, except for Uganda and Kenya, the other EAC countries have not been able to achieve the 4.5 months of import cover criterion since 2014. In addition compliance with the fiscal deficit criterion including grants has, on average, been very challenging for most EAC countries, particularly South Sudan, Kenya, and Burundi. However, these targets are to be achieved by the year 2021. There is no reason at the moment to doubt that any of the EAC Partner States will fail to attain the convergence targets in 2021.

Harmonization of Policies and Laws

The transition to a Monetary Union requires a substantial degree of coordination and harmonization of policies, laws and practices in the run-up to a single currency. Over time, EAC Partner States will need to reform and integrate various policies and laws in order to allow smooth implementation of the EAMU Protocol.

The EAC Partner States, in collaboration with the Secretariat and other stakeholders, are currently working towards harmonization of their policies, laws and practices. For example, the EAC Central Banks have so far agreed to converge in terms of monetary policy regimes and exchange rate policies by moving from reserve money based framework to a forward-looking price based monetary policy framework by December 2018.

The Bank of Uganda took bold steps towards this direction with the introduction of Inflation Targeting Lite (ITL) in July 2011 as well as replacing reserve money with interest rate as operating target. Kenya has also taken steps to adopt a more forward-looking approach to monetary policy, with a view to moving towards inflation targeting. Although reserve money targeting remains the monetary policy framework in Kenya, the Central Bank of Kenya places much greater importance on the policy rate to signal its monetary policy stance.

Viewed from the perspective of preparing the basis for entry to a Monetary Union, Monetary Policy Framework and Operations in other Partner States will need to be aligned with those of Kenya and Uganda. In addition, the EAC Partner States' Central Banks are currently in the process of implementing legal, regulatory and supervisory amendments in their national legal instruments in order to harmonize banking supervision and regulatory frameworks in the region.

Regarding the harmonization of fiscal policies, some marked achievements have been made: So far two policy documents have been developed to guide the process of tax harmonization. First is the EAC ***Tax Treaty Policy***, which was developed to provide a policy framework for guiding future treaty negotiations by the EAC Partner States. Second is the ***EAC Model Tax Treaty*** which is expected to further develop Partner States' economic relationship and to enhance cooperation in tax matters in order to eliminate double taxation without creating opportunities for tax evasion or avoidance. In addition, the Partner States have developed a draft ***Policy Framework for Domestic Tax Harmonization***, which identifies possible areas for harmonization, coordination and the approach for coordination.

In addition, the EAC Partner States have recently established a Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) on Harmonization of National Laws. This working group is expected to review and recommend the necessary reforms on the national laws to allow smooth implementation of the EAMU protocol.

Establishment of Institutions to support the East African Monetary Union

The EAC Partner States recognizes that establishment of a strong Monetary Union will require a robust institutional framework to ensure compliance and safeguard the convergence process. To this effect, the EAMU Protocol provides for the establishment of 4 support institutions including:

- the East African Monetary Institute - to be set up as a precursor to the East African Central Bank;
- the East African Statistics Bureau;
- the East African Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission, and;
- the East African Financial Services Commission.

Establishment of each of these four institutions will among others require legal instruments in the form of a Bill. The EAC Secretariat is currently working with Partner States to develop legal instruments for the establishment of these institutions. Bills for the establishment of the EAC Monetary Institute and the EAC Bureau of Statistics have been developed and cleared by the Council of Ministers and forwarded to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) for enactment.

The Bill for the establishment of the EAC Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission has been negotiated by the EAMU Task Force and cleared by the Sectoral Council on Finance and Economic Affairs and has been forwarded to the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs for legal input. Meanwhile, a study on "Financial Sector Regulatory and Supervisory Architecture" was undertaken to inform the drafting of the Bill for the establishment of an EAC Financial Services Commission. The study report to this effect is being reviewed by Partner States for comments before the study is finalized.

Establishment of a single EA Central Bank

The EAMU Protocol provides for the establishment of regional central bank to be known as East African Central Bank (EACB). In practice, the East African Monetary Institute (EAMI) will be established first as a transitory institution to do all the preparatory work for the establishment of the Monetary Union. The EAMI will then be transformed to the EACB.

The East African Central Bank will not necessarily be based in Arusha. The EACB can be hosted by any Partner State. The Protocol provides that the Summit of the EAC Heads of State (on recommendation from the Council of Ministers) will decide which of the EAC Partner States will host the EACB.

Dr. Kessy is a Principal Economist - Fiscal and Monetary Affairs at the EAC Secretariat

Good Governance

Key to Regional Integration in East Africa

By Damaris Wambui Nyaga

Good governance is an important ingredient for the success of regional integration in the East African Community. It has been observed that there is need to address governance challenges which lie at the core of whatever efforts are deployed to promote the integration agenda, whether at the national, regional or continental levels.

The 6th Annual Conference on Good Governance kicked off on 11th October 2017, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Conceptualization of the theme of the Conference took cognizance of the need for multi-stakeholder engagement and contribution towards attaining a sustainable integration by including the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, security sector, the civil society organizations, the youth and the media in promoting peace, security and stability. The Conference brought together national agencies/institutions responsible for human rights, anti-corruption efforts, electoral processes, judicial processes and legislatures to dialogue on topical issues in the region anchored on the pillars of the EAC Good Governance programme.

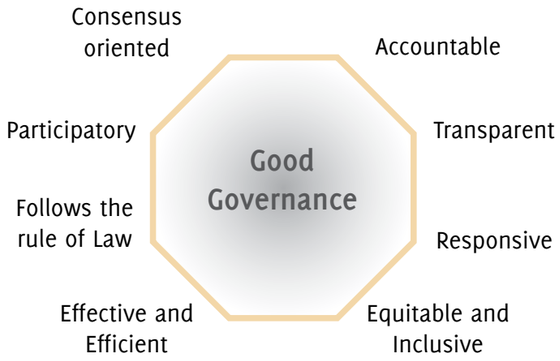
Leaders from national and regional institutions of governance congregated to dialogue, share information and map out innovative strategies to address some of the challenges to promoting good governance and regional integration.

Judicial systems within the East African Community Partner States: Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and South-Sudan seem to be overwhelmed with cases and their independence in executing their mandate hailed or questioned depending on the expectations of the involved parties. This was among the items on the agenda lined up for discussion.

It is reported that, given the historical and socio-ethno-cultural and economic context of the eastern Africa region, the effects of overburdened judicial systems can also be inter-state and as a result, takes great toll on the envisaged regional integration.

Improving democratic governance is a critical component of the broader enabling environment for peace, security and stability. It calls for ensuring that the structures and institutions for democratic governance are not only existing but are strengthened, seen to be working and serving the people, and promoting democracy and inclusiveness. In turn, this will guarantee meaningful and sustainable integration.

In the words of Dr Susan Kolimba, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation in the United Republic of Tanzania at the Conference; "...good governance in the EAC Partner States minimizes the possibility of instability in the region, thereby ensuring peace and security which are the cornerstones of socio-economic development in the region. The challenge to us all is how best we can collectively address governance challenges that confront our region in a manner that responds to the opportunities that surround us".



EAC Partner States have constantly been urged to iron out contentious issues and finalize the Protocol on Good Governance as a framework for good governance in the EAC.

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation, Mr Charles Njoroge, at the conference, stated that while economic integration is a priority, it will not by itself be sufficient to enable the region to consolidate the gains and ensure mechanisms for equitable distribution of benefits.

"We need to look beyond economic integration for us to move towards the ultimate goal of our integration process – the Political Federation. Also we must realize that the East African Political Federation will not be an event but a process, and not an end in itself but a means to an end," said Mr Njoroge.

It is important to note that a number of the escalating violent conflicts and political instability in African countries are the product of undemocratic practices and good governance deficits.

The resultant challenges thus far have had negative implications to achieving human security, reducing poverty and realizing other general human development. In the East African region in particular, countries have adopted different approaches to address violence and civil unrest mostly through judicial and security sector reforms.

Good Governance has 8 major characteristics. It is Participatory, Consensus Oriented, Accountable, Transparent, Responsive, Effective and Efficient, Equitable and Inclusive and follows the Rule of Law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are considered in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Damaris is a Media Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat.

Achieving Gender Equality at the Port

Kenya's First Female Marine Pilot

By Trademark East Africa

Elizabeth Marami did not really know what she was getting into, when she applied to become a marine captain through the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA). "It was not something that I was interested in as a kid, but I was always up for a challenge. When I got called in and I learnt what it was about I totally fell in love with the whole idea." Now Kenya's first female marine pilot and a certified second officer, Elizabeth is the only woman out of 17 other trainee pilots at the port. At 26 years old, she is also among the younger people in her field.

Neither this, nor the eight-hour days, or long months at sea, faze Elizabeth. She recalls spending one Christmas sailing to Saudi Arabia, in the middle of nowhere, with no cell phone network. "Such things make you really feel intimidated and for a split second you can question why you even chose to be here. But then you must know your end game. If you do, you can persevere and keep on going. If you are a go-getter you can achieve anything you want to achieve."

Still it requires something of an adjustment when Elizabeth first boards the ship and is the only woman in a crew of 50 – 100. "You have to fight for yourself to be perceived as equal. "

Thankfully, Elizabeth feels supported by her supervisors. "My superiors everywhere, even at the port have always been supportive of me. They said that once I embarked upon this career, to get this far it takes a lot. They respect the fact that I have actually gotten this far and thus they gain the morale to support me even further."

Elizabeth's employer, Kenya Ports Authority jointly with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) commissioned a gender mainstreaming assessment, which revealed that the maritime industry is defined by a history and culture of male dominance in many aspects. This is gradually changing as the institution embraces automated systems of operation and deliberately observes requirements that create room for entry of women to work areas that have been largely considered the preserve of men.

The first comprehensive gender mainstreaming assessment of the Port of Mombasa was carried out in 2016. KPA is a public institution in Kenya and a fulcrum of development for the East African region and believes that human rights and equality approaches are imperative for the holistic development of society.

KPA's gender mainstreaming policy has enabled Elizabeth to fulfill her dream to become Kenya's first female marine pilot and a certified second officer. Elizabeth spent five years at the prestigious Arab Academy for Maritime Transport and Technology in Alexandria, Egypt and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nautical Technology. She was only the second woman allowed on board the academy training ship.

Now, her goal is to get the experience and hours at sea needed to become a full captain. She is also passionate about encouraging more women to get involved in Maritime. "You can't sleep on your dream. You must start living it. I believe if I can do it, any other woman can!"

KPA's Mombasa Port infrastructure has the capacity to support gender equality goals albeit the need for improvement. The level of automation that has been integrated into operational processes which allows women to enter job spaces that they could not previously sustain due to the manual and exacting nature of the work.

Reduction of time for offloading and loading containers because of the new infrastructure means women and men in the transport sector (truck drivers) do not wait for long at the Port thus increasing their disposable time for work-life balance. Increased use of conveyor belt systems for loading and off-loading of cargo has also enhanced women's presence in operational tasks at the Port.

Tech Transfer Key to China-Africa Agricultural Cooperation: FAO Official

By Justice Lee Adoboe

Consistent technical support has been a major factor in the hugely successful China-African cooperation on agriculture, an official with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said.

Peter Anaadumba, Program Officer for South-South Cooperation at the Africa Regional Office of FAO, pointed out that through the technological innovation provided by China, African countries have been able to multiply yields in specific staples and livestock.

"If you look at the last three decades, cooperation between China and Africa has increased significantly and has contributed a lot to agriculture development," Anaadumba said.

He highlighted the role of technology in such programs, saying: "I think the most successful aspect over the last decade has been China's introduction of small mechanization tools to support agriculture in Africa."

He mentioned some of the mini mechanization tools as small transplanters, small harvesters, small and processing machines, which have been made available for African countries.

In Liberia, Anaadumba lauded China for how its artificial insemination technology enabled exponential growth in yields of pigs, and in Nigeria where about 500 technical assistance personnel were deployed, for a significant increased yields in rice and fish production.

Through its collaboration with FAO, China has, deployed since the inception of the South-South Cooperation on agriculture, more than 1,000 technical experts and technicians, and the continent benefits from over 70 percent of the initial US$ 30 and the top-up of US$ 50 million Trust Fund set up by China for the South-South Cooperation projects across the world.

"The number keeps increasing. In September 2017 we fielded 13 Chinese cooperants in DR Congo, based in Lubumbashi. We have other projects that Chinese cooperants are assisting in and this new project that we are developing tells us that the number of Chinese cooperants to these countries will only increase because there is more requests coming," he added.

"If you want to feed a hungry man you don't give him the fish, but you have to teach him how to fish," he said, citing a Chinese proverb. "The most tremendous contribution is capacity building."

Anaadumba said people will, by training, understand that they can improve upon their yield. In water management for example, due to China's age-old prudent water management practices, it is a technique that African farmers can apply for maximum returns, he said.

The benefits of this cooperation, the programs officer said, are diverse, including creating the right environment for private-sector investment in the African countries.

"So you look at Uganda where we had a project of about US$ 1.5 million and now there have been other provinces in China that came in to have a bilateral cooperation to have an industrial park. And this project is around US$ 225 million. So you see this cooperation is also bringing in the private sector."

He continued: "Once you have the private sector in an economy, it is definitely going to create employment, it's definitely going to boost exportation of the country's own production. So in a way it is beneficiary to both because China will be importing, and Africa will be exporting."

Through the China-Africa Cooperation, Anaadumba said China has been giving the opportunity to African countries to be able to produce and meet international import expectations, but then it also creates a win-win situation for both sides.

"So for me, the benefit is a win-win situation for both countries. It's not about one country only taking and not giving. I have seen it from both ends," he emphasized.

Adoboe is a seasoned Ghanaian Journalist based in Accra.

AU Scorecard Deal Shows

Africa Ready for Agriculture Revolution

By Boaz Keizire

As the world's heads of state met at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September, Africa was represented by several leaders, among them Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Zambia's Edgar Lungu and Rwanda's Paul Kagame. I was there too.

The rest of the world had its eyes on Donald Trump, Bill Gates and Angela Merkel leading several institutional and state presidents to an event that had great political import following Mr Trump's earlier dismissal of the UN.

But, amidst all the tension and accompanying political undertones, the African leaders nonetheless pulled away from the drama of the main assembly to hold a side-meeting, to which Mr Gates was also invited, to engage on the state of agriculture in Africa.

In its own 'back room' way, far from the cameras and eyes of the media that African side meeting at the UNGA was ground breaking. This is where the heads of state supported a measurement tool to achieve accountability in making the policy and many other changes, including investment, to stimulate the continent's agricultural sector.

The potential for agriculture to usher in a wealthier future for Africa is enormous. But for an industry that is dominated by small holders, it requires the filling of multiple gaps, all of which are making it harder for our continent's farmers and agripreneurs to draw the full potential from our vast lands.

For the heads of state to speak to the merits of measurement, country by country, and government accountability in delivering an agricultural transformation was a moment that I, personally, shall never forget. For me, it represents a milestone that many of us have worked long and hard for.

The agricultural scorecard idea was first mooted at the 2014 African Union Heads of State Summit in Equatorial Guinea, where African leaders agreed to a common set of targets for agricultural development and to a biennial review of progress made against these goals: in a commitment now popularly known as the Malabo Declaration.

The African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency have been leading the review process through the collection of data on a set of 43 indicators from its 55 member countries.

With the findings of this first biennial review now set for presentation at the African Union heads of state summit in January 2018, it was a wholly new experience, too, to hear Mr Gates, one of the non-state world leaders and philanthropists at the meeting, comment on the enthusiasm for the scorecard concept, as he encouraged participants to move quickly to take advantage of the momentum created to secure support for the tool.

"I am really enthused about the call for a scorecard, as it can be very catalytic," said Mr Gates.
Mr Gates' sentiments were supported by businessman Strive Masiyiwa, who recommended quantitative tracking as a way for monitoring progress and encouraging best practices.

The agricultural scorecard draws its inspiration from the success of similar tools, like the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) Scorecard for Accountability and Action, which have seen countries across the continent act to eradicate the disease from the continent by 2020.
Between 2011, when the first ALMA scorecard was released, and 2015, some eight countries, including Cape Verde, Uganda and Ethiopia, reported a reduction in malaria incidence of 40 per cent or more, in a drop that has, in part, been attributed to the accountability framework that has been provided by the ALMA scorecard.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Amina Mohammed, who sat in for President Uhuru Kenyatta at the UNGA side-meeting, expressed approval at seeing resources being channelled towards the creation of a similar tool for agriculture, indicating that it holds the promise of improving the state of the sector across the continent, "just like the ALMA scorecard helped ramp up efforts in the fight against malaria".

Alliance for a Green Revolution Africa (AGRA) president Agnes Kalibata, one of the leaders that have been spearheading the development of the scorecard, also knows too well the importance of the accountability tool, which she hopes will, "build on and from the Biennial Review, but be designed for and by heads of state to track progress and share best practices".
Overall, the agricultural sector received significant attention throughout the five-day UNGA with many speakers declaring it as the shinning hope of revival for a continent that has long held the promise of world leadership in food production.

Anne Désirée Ouloto, the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire, affirmed that the West African country's outstanding GDP growth continues to be driven by agriculture, with agricultural transformation at the centre of its strategy for overall structural transformation.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Mr Desalegn, also emphasised the importance of agriculture for economic growth and development in Africa, highlighting the need for new policies and investments to transform the sector.
"Agriculture has been a key driver for Ethiopia, and has made it among the fastest growing economies in Africa," he said.
The response by various heads of state and other world leaders to the prospects of a high-level agricultural scorecard now confirms that Africa is indeed ready for the second revolution, one which will emanate from our farm lands.

Keizire is Head of Policy and Advocacy at AGRA and also a 2017 Fellow for the Aspen New Voices Fellowship. This article was first published by Business Daily.

Faster, Better and Together:

The Road to Inclusive E-Commerce in Africa

By Mukhisa Kituyi

"Small is beautiful, small is powerful". This is the creed embedded in the foundation of a global e-commerce giant: *Alibaba.* But the creed not only defines the genesis of a company. It also reflects the power and scope of e-commerce around the globe.

This is what makes e-commerce so formidable: the possibility of turning a small firm into a global giant; the possibility of bringing new, better and cheaper products to consumers; the possibility of opening new markets to anybody with a good idea, Internet and a computer -- and this includes your mobile phone.

Today, you do not need to be big to be global. The Internet changed that forever. But we have to be smart to make sure we do not miss the opportunity e-commerce represents: both as an engine of growth and as a source of inclusiveness.

This is the message that Jack Ma, UNCTAD's Special Advisor for Young Entrepreneurs and Small Business, and I delivered to Africa's leaders, young people and aspiring entrepreneurs during our visit to the continent.

In 2015, the value of e-commerce worldwide was estimated at more than US$ 25 trillion. This is more than the GDP of the USA in the same year. E-commerce is big business. But there are sharp differences on how countries use it and profit from it. This contrast is nowhere more evident than in Africa, where way below 5 percent of the population shops online. In Europe this share is as high as 60-80 percent.

According to UNCTAD's e-commerce index, Africa is trailing far behind in terms of readiness to engage in and benefit from e-commerce.

The index is composed of four factors:

1. Internet use
2. Credit card penetration
3. Postal reliability
4. The number of secure, encrypted Internet servers per capita

The average score for developed countries is 71. For Africa, it is 24. And even in comparison to other developing regions, Africa is at the bottom in all four areas.

On top of this, Africa's inadequate regulatory framework is not conducive to foster trust online, which is an essential element of any well-functioning market. In fact, less than 40 percent of African countries have established data protection and consumer protection laws.

As more and more consumers and firms turn to the Internet, to buy and sell goods and services, online presence becomes vital. And in a few years, if firms do not exist on the web, they will not exist at all. In Africa, under the current circumstances, e-commerce can exacerbate exclusion rather than inclusion, putting African entrepreneurs at a disadvantage in the evolving digital economy. This is something we have to avoid.

We, the international community, governments, private sector and the civil society, have to pave the road for the inclusive digital commerce we want, where men and women, of all ages, can benefit from inclusive digital trade, or as we call it: *"eTrade for all."*

Building this road is not an easy task, and how we do it is as critical as the efforts we put into the endeavour. We have to do it *"faster, better, and together"*.

We need to respond faster to the gaps and challenges that prevent people and small businesses from profiting from e-commerce. For instance, accessing the Internet is one of these issues. In Africa, nearly 75 percent of the population does not use or have access to Internet. And if you are a woman you are even less likely to have access. These gaps matter and we have to narrow them down.

In response, UNCTAD has created a "Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessment" to help countries to quickly identify barriers to further e-commerce development. Liberia is the first country in Africa that will undergo such an assessment and we expect many more countries from the region to follow in the coming months.

But responding faster is not enough. We also have to do it better. And this implies learning from the past to better seize the opportunities e-commerce presents. We have learned that trade creates winners, but also losers and, left alone, that it can widen disparities rather than closing them.

This time we need to take policy measures that ensure e-commerce does not only benefit the big firms, but also the smaller ones.

As Jack Ma has said, "We must enable a mother in Africa to sell her handmade baskets to a customer in Argentina; a farmer in the Philippines to sell mangos to the UK; and any hard working man or woman in this world to benefit from global trade."

And there is only one way we can undertake such an endeavor: together.

Today there are many organisations - national, regional and international -- that offer assistance in different areas of e-commerce to developing countries. But current efforts are simply inadequate. They are highly fragmented and insufficient in scale.

We can achieve much more together, and this was the genesis of the UNCTAD-led *eTrade for all initiative.*

The initiative raises awareness of opportunities, challenges and solutions related to e-commerce in developing countries. It mobilises financial and human resources for e-commerce projects and strengthens coherence and synergies among partners' activities.

The main tool is the etradeforall.org online platform, which helps developing countries and donors navigate the supply of technical and financial support available to foster e-commerce and digital trade, learn about trends and best practices, and to raise visibility for the various partners' initiatives and resources.

Since its launch in July 2016, 24 organisations have joined the initiative and more than 30 private sector entities - including giants like Alibaba and eBay as well as smaller businesses like Burundishop and Kapruka - have also joined the Business for eTrade Development initiative, and we expect the groups to expand further in 2017. This reflects the wide consensus that we can go further if we go together.

E-commerce has the potential to make a difference for development. But this will only be the case if we move faster, react better and move together. Only then will the prospects of e-trade become a real opportunity for all in Africa.

Dr Mukhisa Kituyi is the Secretary General of UNCTAD

In 2015, the value of e-commerce worldwide was estimated at more than US$ 25 trillion

EAC Coming to Grips with Key Role Rail Plays in Growth, Integration

By George Omondi

Sometime last year when a group of Kenyan traders accused Tanzania of making their goods too expensive in its market by collecting the Railway Development Levy (RDL) on them, few bureaucrats paid much attention to the complaints.

Kenya was the first country to introduce the RDL in 2013, which is collected at the rate of 1.5 per cent on home-bound imports.

Unlike Uganda and Tanzania, which have borrowed the idea, Kenya started on a wrong footing when it chose to levy the tax on nearly every import that came into its market, including those from the East African Community (EAC).

Through their lobby, the East African Business Council, the region's traders successfully talked the government out of the tax in 2014 — which they had labelled as one of the non-tariff barriers of the time.

Kenya has a number of trade disputes with Tanzania but some bureaucrats believe collection of RDL is not one of them.

The officials were somewhat vindicated when a Kenyan team led by trade Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo failed to produce evidence to back up their claims.

Tanzania has been categorical that it has been collecting RDL in the last two years and like its other neighbours, it spares imports originating from EAC states.

And so Tanzania's trade and investment Permanent Secretary Adolf Mkenda told Kenya's dispute resolution team lead by Dr Kiptoo: "Tanzania does not levy RDL on imports originating from EAC." Away from bilateral trade disputes, the East African states seem to have realised the positive role that an improved railway link can play in their economic integration.

When Kenya introduced the RDL the aim was to raise cash to cover 10 per cent of the standard gauge railway (SGR) cost after China agreed to take care of the rest of the expenses.

Uganda, which introduced RDL in 2014, also seeks to raise additional cash for its Kampala-Malaba SGR after Chinese Exim Bank came on board.

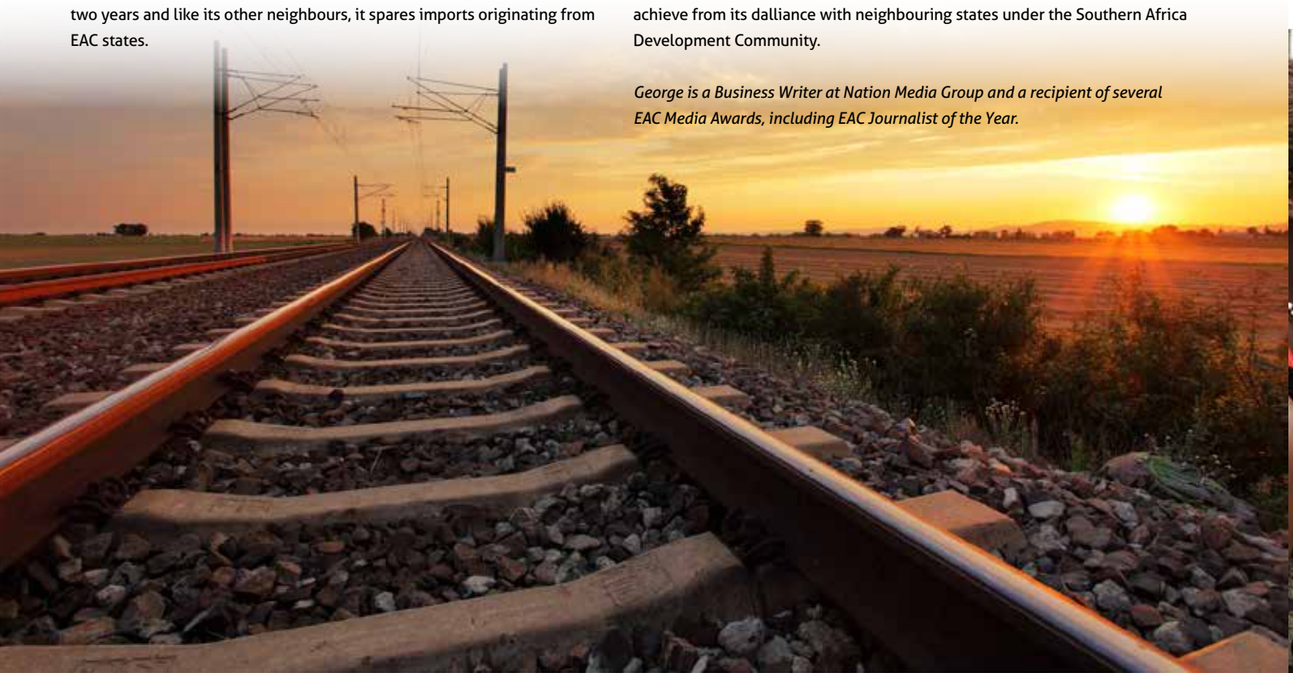
Tanzania, Johnny-come-lately, set itself a five-year target of raising US$ 14.2 billion both for new rail projects and improving existing lines.

The country is working on three SGR projects starting with a 2,561km line which will eventually link Dar es Salaam with Rwanda and Burundi and a 1,000km line linking its iron and coal mines to the port of Mtwara.

In East Africa, economic integration tends to progress more along railway lines than anything else including shared cultures.

The century old Mombasa-Kampala single gauge track has given Kenya and Uganda more than the dotted lines signed on the EAC treaty will ever deliver. Conversely, the Tazara railroad which runs from Dar es Salaam to Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia was conceived to deliver more than Tanzania would ever achieve from its dalliance with neighbouring states under the Southern Africa Development Community.

George is a Business Writer at Nation Media Group and a recipient of several EAC Media Awards, including EAC Journalist of the Year.



Youth are Vital to the

Future of the EAC

By Alex O Awiti

A survey conducted by the East African Institute showed less than 5 per cent of youth between the age of 18-35 years identify as belonging to the polity that is the East African Community. They believe the EAC is a political construct of the elite — some regional trade deal to open up markets for free movement of goods, labour and capital.

The Community of the people of East Africa is not just a figment that dwells in the minds of the political and business elite. It is more than an expansionist or federal obsession of the Arusha bureaucrats. The Community is more than the lofty dreams of common currency or common trade tariffs.

There is something more wholesome — we the people. We are the Community. The Community, joined by bonds of kinship and exchange as are ancient as the hills. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta or Milton Obote did not bequeath the Community to us. When they created the first EAC, they were merely repairing the division that was wrought upon the people of East Africa by the British and the Germans.

Across the borders, we share languages, traditions and beliefs. We share the picturesque beauty and splendor of Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, the Indian Ocean, Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Elgon, the Great Rift Valley, the Mara and yes the iconic statuesque men and women of the savannas. More importantly, our destiny is shared through the fears, hopes and aspirations of our youth.

When asked what the future will look like, the youth from Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania had a consensus about the expansion of material wealth among the few. The youth also believed there would be better access to quality health, education, and that there would be more jobs for the youth. In Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, they believed there would be more corruption and substance abuse and that their societies would be poorer in ethics and values.

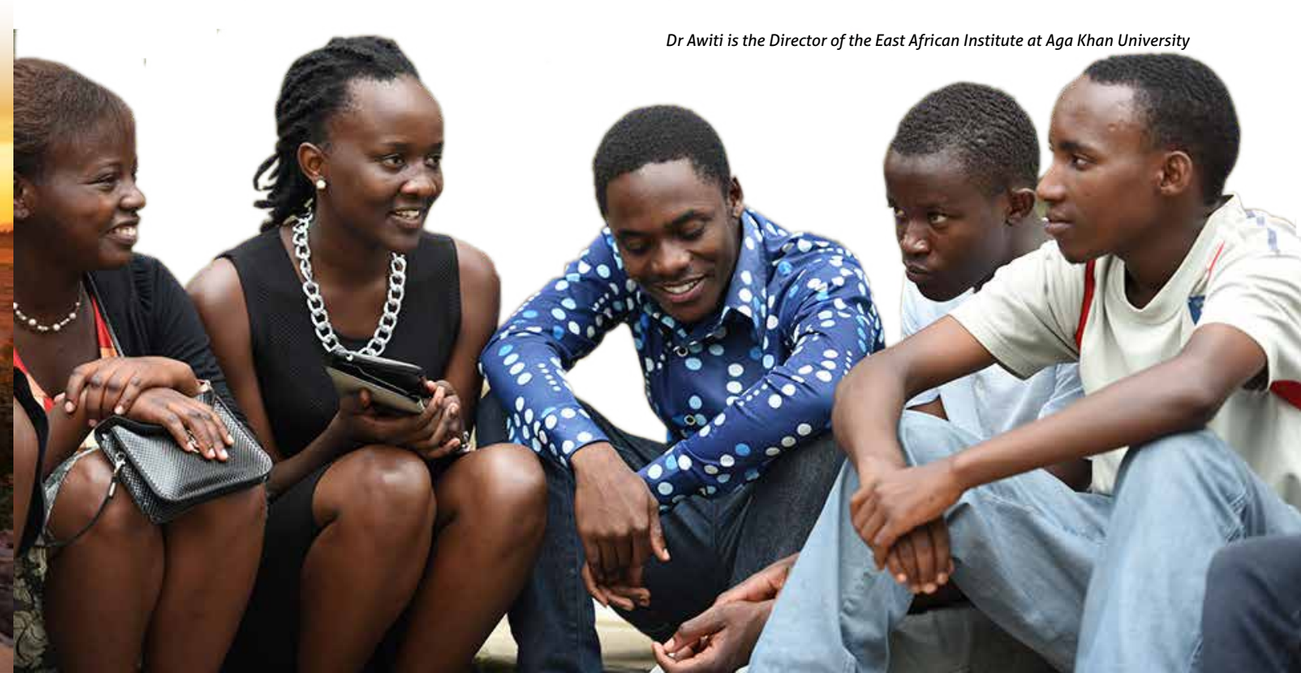
The youth were unequivocal about what they want government to tackle urgently. Nearly 70 per cent of them want government to address unemployment and expand access to capital for investment. Youth were confident about their skills for entrepreneurship and possessed strong entrepreneurial aspirations, with over 60 per cent saying they would like to start a business.

Although the youth suffer the highest rates of unemployment, they are willing to be part of the solution, if only the government could provide access to investment capital, business opportunities, skills, and advisory services.

But more importantly, high unemployment among the youth in the EAC should invite us to examine the structural flaws that have caused just so few to reap the benefits of the last two decades of economic prosperity.

Clearly, there is no such a thing as trickle down prosperity. To secure the EAC, we must grapple with our biggest challenge — youth unemployment — and harness the potential demographic dividend to drive greater and inclusive prosperity.

Dr Awiti is the Director of the East African Institute at Aga Khan University



PICTORIAL

A section of Ugandan Wananchi with happy faces as they wave EAC and Uganda flags during the Launch of the Mutukula One-Stop Border Post.

EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko hands over Chairmanship of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force (TTF) to COMESA Secretary General, Mr Sindiso Ndema Ngwenya.

(L-R) Uganda First Lady Janet Museveni; President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Museveni; President of the united Republic of Tanzania, H.E John Magufuli and Tanzania First Lady Janet Magufuli enjoy a light moment after the two Heads of State launched the Mutukula One-Stop Border Post (OSBP).

EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko and German Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. Dr. Detlef Waechter display a Financing Agreement to support Health and Education in the EAC region. Looking on are (L-R) Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors; Ms. Norzin Grigoleit-Dgayab of the German Embassy, Tanzania and Eng. Steven Mlote, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure.

Dr Kamugisha Kazaura, EAC Director of Infrasrtucture, presents a token of appreciation to Mr Koang Chang Pal, Chairman of the South Sudan National Editors Forum for his support in mobilizing the media in South Sudan to attend a four-day Training Workshop of Republic of South Sudan Media Practioners on EAC Integration.

Looking on, are Mr Richard Owora of the Secretariat and Mr Tom Sorensen of GIZ.

Permanent / Principal Secretaries of Ministries responsible for East African Community Affairs (MEACA), Senior official from the Ministries and staff of the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) pose for a group photo after a two-day meeting to discuss the Commission's Strategic Plan 2017/18 - 2021/22.

Kenya Airforce Commander, Major General Samuel Thuita receives the EAC Flag from Burundi Chief of National Defense Force, Lt. Gen. Prime Niyongabo as a symbol of Kenya's acceptance to host the 2019 edition of the EAC Military Games and Cultural Event.

Human and Veterinary Medical Professions need to Collaborate Closer in the Fight Against Rabies

Mbwa Wa Africa
Animal Rescue & Kennels

By Kenneth Byoona

"Today I learned that you can be bitten by a dog when you bother it and when it is sick with Rabies. I also learned that if you care for dogs they will be friendly", says 11 year old Clara Yuda Opasi, who is in Standard 5 C of the Imani Primary School in Arusha's Sombeteni ward. The Imani Primary School was one out of 70 primary schools that participated in the celebrations of the World Rabies Day in Arusha from 28 September to 1 October 2017. They were organized by Mbwa wa Africa Animal Rescue, an animal welfare organization dedicated to the rescue and welfare of dogs and cats.

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in cooperation with the Pandemic Preparedness project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH joined Mbwa wa Africa's awareness campaign on World Rabies Day for the first time to set a sign that rabies is not only a Tanzanian, but a regional concern. "I would like to see this campaign rolled out in all our Partner States next year", said Fahari Marwa, Head of the EAC Secretariat's Agriculture and Food Security Department.

Rabies is an infectious virus disease of global public health concern. It is the most fatal disease transmitted between animals and humans. Once an infected person shows signs, there is no cure. According to international scientific estimates some 1,500 Tanzanians get infected every year, most of them children and mainly through dog bites.

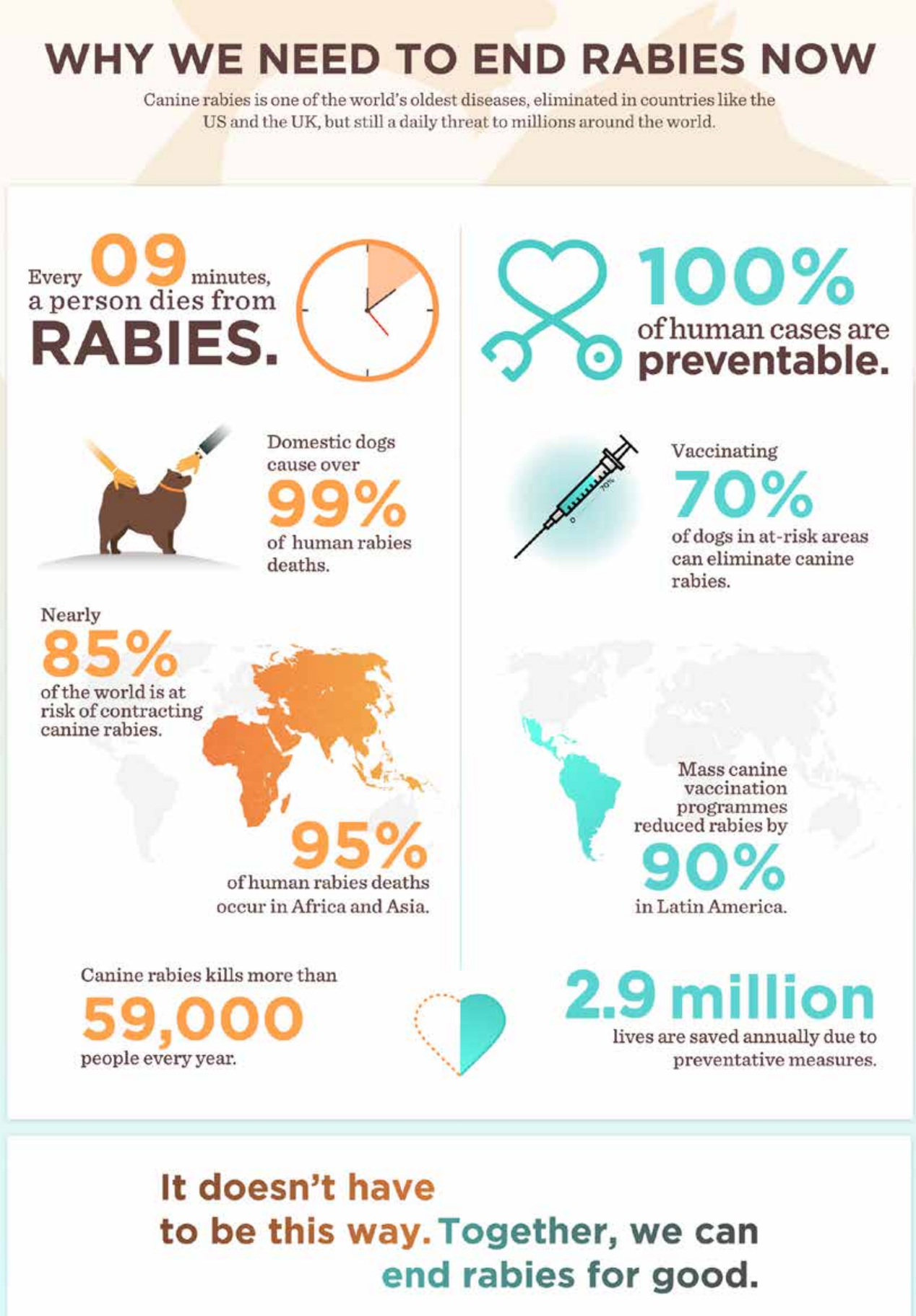
The World Health Organization (WHO) regards the vaccination of dogs as the most effective intervention against rabies. Decreasing rabies in dogs directly impacts on public health by reducing the transmission to humans and is also the most efficient choice. However, it is worth noting that care given to dogs can already make a huge difference in the fight against rabies. This is one of the messages of Bernadette Mathias from Mbwa wa Africa, who thrilled the Imani teachers and pupils with her advice on how to care for dogs, how to prevent bites and what to do in case it still happens.

Besides Clara, nearly 600 pupils attended the awareness raising campaign at Imani Primary School alone; all around Arusha City over 45,000 pupils were sensitized. Geofrey Muchai, Head of the Imani Primary School agreed with Dr Onesma Mandike from the Arusha City Council and Obed Nyasebwa from the Northern Zone Ministry of Agriculture in the meaningfulness of the awareness day: "This campaign is very good and I have learned many new things, for example that killing dogs to prevent rabies has proven to be an unsuccessful approach in the past".

The awareness campaign culminated with two days of free dog vaccination at 20 posts all over Arusha. "The people like the campaign" said 25 year old Naftali Unambwe Kaaya, a veterinary extension officer, "we vaccinated 16 dogs within the first 30 minutes after we arrived. Many children who were educated in the schools about rabies brought along their dogs". Eleven year old Nixon Joseph was one of them. He brought along the family dog 'Spark' to take part in the free vaccination. Joseph showed responsibility for his dog, when he explained that Spark had been sterilized, "because it is not easy to care for puppies".

EAC Secretariat's Fahari Marwa had his two dogs 'Suzie' and 'Jackie' vaccinated against rabies as a sign of commitment to the campaign. He thanked Mbwa wa Africa's Manager, Jens Fissenebert, for the organization's commitment. He raised his concern about the poor data situation on rabies in the EAC Partner States, although the disease is of cross-border concern and claimed closer cooperation between human and veterinary medical professions in the EAC region in surveillance, diagnostics, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases in the full sense of the one health approach.

Byoona is a Regional Advisor Risk and Crisis Communication, EAC/GIZ Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region project



Learning From the Past,

to be Better Prepared for Future Epidemics

By Ruth Evans and Kenneth Byoona

During the 2014 – 2016 Ebola crisis in West Africa, some 500 East African health professionals from various disciplines assisted their West African colleagues in actively fighting the epidemic.

During this time, they gained unique experiences and knowledge about preventing, combating and mitigating future outbreaks of infectious diseases. However, the lessons learned from this experience had not been systematically collected and documented.

Against this backdrop, the East African Community Secretariat, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Germany through the GIZ-coordinated 'Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region' project and in cooperation with GIZ's Epidemic Preparedness Team (Schnell einsetzbare Expertengruppe Gesundheit, SEEG) and KfW, the German Development Bank, supported by the 'EAC Regional Network of Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases,' hosted a regional conference with international participation in Nairobi from 6th to 8th November, 2017.

The Conference set out to discuss and document these first-hand experiences and to develop lessons learned to better prepare for future potential outbreaks of infectious diseases of public health concern.

Nearly 100 participants attended the Conference, which was hosted at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi. Some 50 of these participants had been deployed in West Africa and brought a variety of specialist, practical first-hand experiences of fighting Ebola.

In addition, the Conference was attended by deployed experts from the ECOWAS region, as well as representatives from health-related networks; regional and international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) more than 11,000 people died during the West African Ebola epidemic of 2013/16 while nearly 30,000 people were infected. The epidemic was unprecedented both for the number of people infected and the geographical spread across several countries.
Although the epidemic is now over, the health systems, economies and peoples of the countries affected are still suffering from its impact.

No cases of Ebola were registered in East Africa during this epidemic, but EAC Partner States and neighboring countries have experienced fatal outbreaks of the virus in the past, including the first recorded outbreak in (what was then) Sudan, and a recent outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo in May 2017.

These outbreaks clearly illustrate the crucial importance of pandemic preparedness, of early warning mechanisms and of the availability of a pool of rapidly deployable experts who can respond on short notice to such outbreaks.

East meets West

The 500 or so East Africans who worked in West Africa included doctors, nurses, epidemiologists, data analysts and many other disciplines and professions. Many were volunteers who went to West Africa under the auspices of the African Union and a variety of other organisations.

This Conference gave them an opportunity to discuss their experiences – both successes and challenges - in an open and frank forum, and facilitate the development of best practices. The Conference also provided an opportunity for strengthening the interdisciplinary network of infectious diseases specialists in the region, as well as paving the way to an agreement on the establishment of early warning mechanisms and an urgently needed pool of rapidly deployable experts.

Lessons learned for the future

On behalf of the EAC, Hon. Jesca Eriyo said that the lessons learned from the deployed experts' first-hand experiences would help to strengthen the continents' future response to outbreaks, adding that their recommendations would inform the Community's commitment to strengthening health systems and responses.

Dr Zabulon Yoti, head of the WHO AFRO Office in Brazzaville, DRC, welcomed the meeting as an opportunity for deployed exerts to come together and be 'debriefed' and talk freely about their experiences. He said he would take five key messages away from the meeting:

1. Nobody can tackle infectious diseases like Ebola alone. It needs to be a team effort.
2. Working together leads to better coordination and synergistic actions.
3. Better local action and early reporting is crucial: the Ebola outbreak in West Africa started with just one case but quickly crossed boundaries and continents.
4. Ebola is a disease that crossed from animals to humans, so animal and human health and the effects of the environment and climate change are all closely related and need a multi-sectoral 'One Health' response.
5. The key lesson is that containing future outbreaks will need community engagement, and that entails better understanding of culture and traditions and more effective risk communication, noting that some community responders working in West Africa had been stoned and threatened they 'did not understand the community.'

Fighting epidemics needs a joint approach

Dr Babatunde Jegede from the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health in Lagos spoke on behalf of the West African experts who fought Ebola in the affected countries. He stressed on the importance of continuous exchange and close cooperation between and among the African regions for better future preparedness. He and his colleagues present at the Conference contributed their experiences from fighting the epidemic and said they would take home the lessons learned from their East African brothers and sisters.

Byoona is a Regional Advisor Risk and Crisis Communication, EAC/GIZ Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region project

Learning From the Past, to be Better Prepared for Future Epidemics

A Most Scary Experience

By Monica Musereno

I am Dr Monica Musenero, from Uganda. I was a WHO Field Coordinator in Bombali, Sierra Leone, and I am still working with the WHO Recovery Team there.

She trained as a vet, worked as an academic for 10 years and then trained as an epidemiologist. I also co-ordinated the response to Uganda's 2007 Ebola epidemic outside the epicentre and worked with many different agencies.

But even this experience, had not prepared me for the shock I felt when I arrived in Sierra Leone, around seven weeks after the outbreak. Never in my life did I imagine such an epidemic. It dwarfed everything that had gone before.

I knew that the response needed to be rapid but saw a situation that was spiralling out of control in the wake of Sierra Leone's bitter civil war that had battered and destroyed its already-weak health systems.

A crucial event in the spread of Ebola was the burial of a traditional healer. Over 300 cases were subsequently traced to this one funeral.

When the first urban outbreak occurred in Kenema city, the confusion was very frightening - 30 local nurses had been admitted and the only doctor died shortly after I arrived.

It was very scary.

There was a street that was hardest hit by Ebola. Sixty-eight people lived on this street, only 15 people survived, and of those, only 7 were not infected. An entire family of 18 people perished.

I have been to places that were daunting, but this street was the most petrifying place I have ever been. You felt Ebola in the air.

There were many lessons to be learned from West Africa's experiences, but these I shall put forth:

- We need to build technical capacity to be very sure it is there – not to simply assume we have it.
- Case management and infection control is critical – but don't lose trained staff.
- Surveillance and laboratory systems need to be established with trained people. Seven weeks into the outbreak in Kenema, there was still no system.
- Social mobilisation and communication are vital - a mentally disturbed woman convinced people that nurses were trying to kill people, and angry people stormed the centre this was "near disaster.
- Logistics and security are key - we lost quite a few security men because they had not been trained, when patients tried to escape they were at times infected while trying to restrain patients.
- Finance and mobilization - about 10-12 weeks into the outbreak, there was no money to pay for responders, and a strike called by local health care workers was a major problem.
- Effective communication is crucial - especially in a situation where patients and their families are distressed and ill-informed and local health workers knew little about the disease.
- Leadership and management are absolutely vital - more so in fast-moving epidemics. If structures and systems are not established in advance, it becomes very difficult. Leadership is crucial. I no longer take it for granted because of the experiences we had at the frontline.
- Harness politics to positively impact the outcome, particularly in complex situations.
- For three years in, there was no economic activity going on – the schools and markets were shut, we need to end an epidemic as quickly as possible so we don't get into such chaos.

Caring for the affected health workers

Love is a crucial component of care - Love for the patients and their families, but also love for the medical staff working in such crises.
You need to know when to stop and rest.

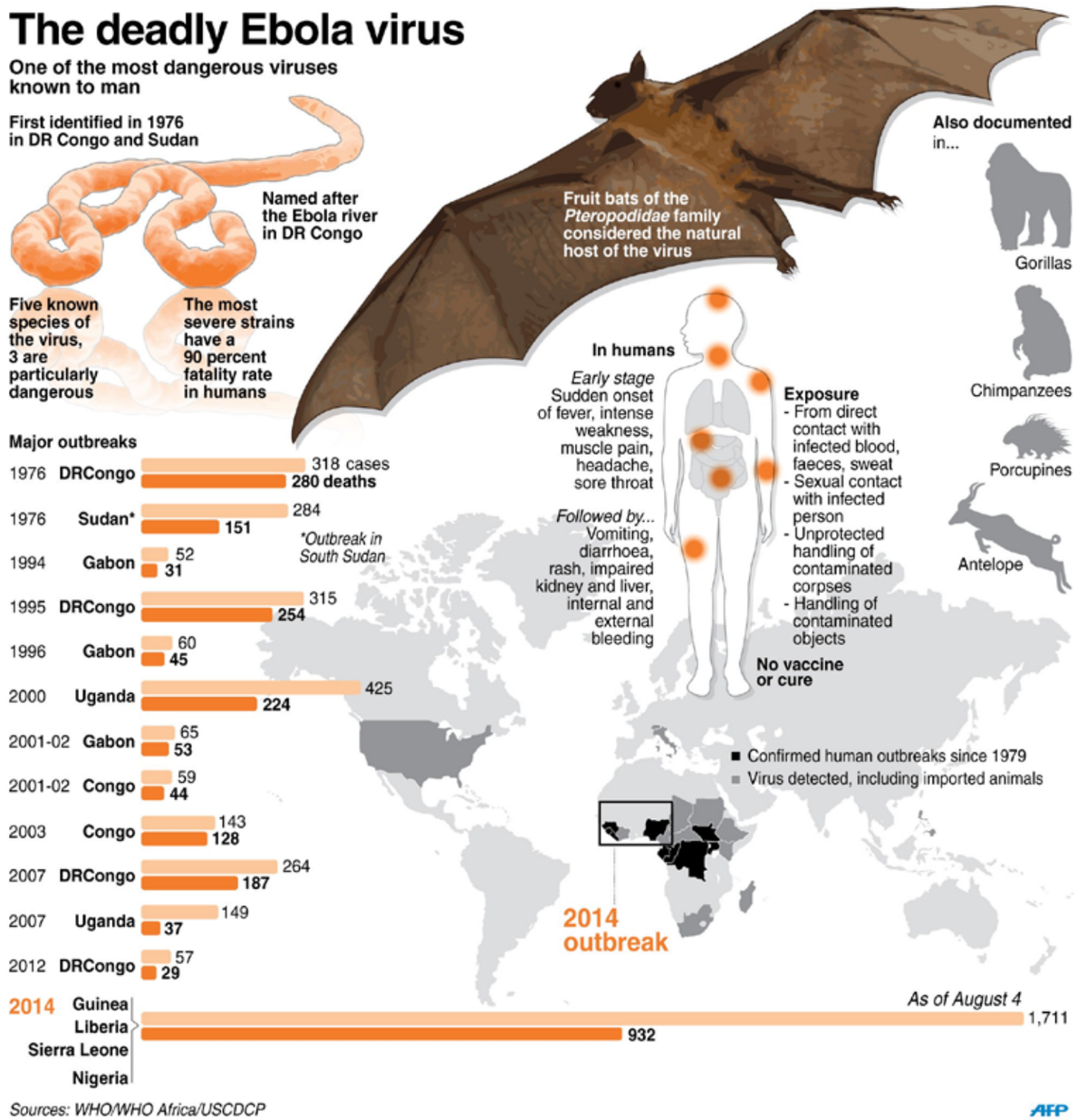
A dead Monica is no good to anyone.

You put on a front that you are okay, but there's a lot of stress. Each day you are not sure if you have been exposed. There was a lot of '*psychological Ebola*' where people were constantly taking their temperature or struggling to deal with the stress of daily life."

Many of the health workers who survived an Ebola outbreak had had a hard time adjusting to life at home. We felt that our experience was not understood or recognised or that we did not fit in. Many of us suffered post-traumatic stress disorders on our return home - just like a soldier.

After five months on the "front line" without a break, I had nightmares about dead bodies.

Care for the Caregivers needs to be organised so that they are given opportunities for counselling and greater understanding of what they have gone through.



The Impact and Benefits

of the Single Customs Territory

By Herbert Ssempogo

About five customs entries, customs agents' fees in two countries, two goods- in-transit guarantee bonds and duplicated customs procedures in Kenya and in Uganda.

That was the inconvenience that characterised cargo clearance before the implementation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) in 2013.

Steel and Tube Industries' Aggrey Ijara recollected that back in 2013 he was required to declare each container on five to seven customs entries for Mombasa Port, and two entries for transit and on arrival at Malaba, Eastern Uganda respectively.

"The many entries were costly and a lot of time was consumed," Ijara stated.

Importers paid US$ 200 million fees for clearing agents in Mombasa, over US$ 40 bond fee at Malaba and another US$ 138 for agents in Kampala. This was in addition to two goods –in- transit bonds to deter dumping of cargo in Kenya or Uganda.

The delays and costs were an indictment on revenue authorities, which were failing on the trade facilitation role.

To address these challenges and others that impeded regional trade, the Presidents of the East African Community (EAC) agreed to fast track the implementation of SCT to enable importers declare their goods once on arrival at the first port of entry into the region.

It is a stage towards full attainment of the Customs Union, achievable by the removal of restrictive regulations and/or minimization of internal border controls on goods moving between the partner states.

In June 2013, amid a Northern Corridor Presidents' Summit, Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya heads of state agreed to fast track SCT's implementation.

Under the model, Customs clearance is done while goods are still at the first point of entry into the region. The Customs declaration is done only once in destination country.

Other features of SCT are, taxes are paid to respective country of destination while goods are still at the first point of entry, and goods are moved under a single regional guarantee bond-the Regional Customs Transit Guarantee Bond and physical verification of goods done once; at first entry point, originating partner state or destination country.

Also important is the mutual recognition of customs agents in the EAC region. A Customs agent licenced in Uganda is now able to clear goods in the customs business systems of any of the partner states.

And in what could be music to importers' ears, goods in transit are electronically monitored by the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS), with monitoring centers in Kampala, Nairobi and Kigali.

The SCT is supported by interconnected customs systems of all the revenue authorities and port authorities; this has enabled real time exchange of information. Because of system interconnections, importers are now able to clear port charges online. There is no need to travel to Mombasa.

Four months after the presidential directive, in October 2013, Uganda piloted with petroleum imports of the biggest fuel dealers namely VIVO Uganda and Total Uganda.

Subsequently, phased implementation commenced in February 2014 with all other fuel imports.

"Phased implementation was to minimize trade disruptions and to provide for sufficient change management for all stakeholders," Kateshumbwa, a Uganda Revenue Authority official, explained.

In July 2014, all intra region (EAC) cargo traded within EAC partner states (except for selected cargo to Burundi) started being cleared under SCT. Others thereafter were bulk cargo including clinker, wheat grain, crude edible oil, steel products, bitumen; containerized cargo including rice, sugar, used clothing & used shoes, dry batteries, beverages, alcoholic drinks, cooking oil cigarettes, neutral spirit, steel products, and then motor vehicle units imported through Mombasa.

Fuel and bitumen imported through Dar es Salaam, Tanzania followed thereafter. By 2016, approximately 50% of customs revenue is collected from goods cleared on SCT, according to Kateshumbwa.

And because of its success, it was rolled-out on all imports via Mombasa by 2016, with Dar es Salaam following suit the same year. Following implementation, importers commend authorities for facilitating trade.

"SCT has reduced paperwork, time and the cost of doing business. We have saved a lot. It used to take a week for the cargo to get to Kampala," Ijara stated, adding that now it takes two days to get to Kampala.

Since inception, said TradeMark East Africa's, Richard Kamajugo, travel time fell from 18 days in 2012 to 4-5 days. Citing fuel, the TradeMark East Africa Senior Director said before SCT, Uganda suffered shortages especially during festive seasons.

"Uganda used to experience fuel shortages around Christmas and prices used to escalate. SCT improved the supply of fuel and Christmas of 2014 was the first time fuel was available in all towns in Uganda within the same price ranges," he stated.

TradeMark has worked with the EAC Secretariat and the Revenue Authorities to sensitise their staff, stakeholders and the public, and also to develop and document the SCT clearance procedures.

"TradeMark East Africa is still working with the EAC Secretariat and the Partner States to further improve the exchange of data between the different customs information technology systems," Kamajugo added. In Rwanda, one of the EAC Partner States, SCT clearance procedures have been rolled out for all goods imported through both Ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. Another member, Burundi has rolled out SCT only for selected items.

SCT is expected to enhance efficiency as the EAC partner states continue investing in modern information technology systems. This will have long term positive impacts on the clearance times and the cost of doing business in the region.

The Author is an Officer at Uganda Revenue Authority's Media Desk, Public & Corporate Affairs

Lobbyist Says US Likely to

Punish East Africa over Mitumba Ban

By Kevin J. Kelley

Donald Trump administration trade officials are likely to rule that three East African countries are violating eligibility terms for the US preferential trade programme for Africa, a lobbyist for Kenya has warned.

"The stars are aligned" for such a ruling before the end of the year, said Washington based attorney Paul Ryberg, an expert on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa).

Mr Ryberg has been retained by the Kenya Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperation and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers to lobby on Agoa-related matters.

At issue is a US government trade agency's earlier-than-scheduled assessment of Agoa compliance in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

AGOA

The agency's move to conduct this "out-of-cycle review" of their Agoa status came in response to a US business association's petition in March urging that the three countries be barred from exporting clothing to the US under Agoa's duty-free provisions.

The Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association, known as Smart, argued at a public hearing in Washington in July that the cut-off of *mitumba* imports from the US runs counter to Agoa's prohibition against "barriers to US trade."

Officials from Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda testified at the same hearing that their agreed-upon three-year phase-out of *mitumba* imports is a necessary tool for nurturing their own garment-producing industries.

The three targeted countries also contended that the *mitumba* ban does not contradict Agoa's eligibility criteria.

PETITION

Mr Ryberg maintains that the US trade agency's acceptance of Smart's petition was based on an "erroneous" finding.

He said the *mitumba* ban does not violate Agoa standards because the clothing at issue was manufactured outside the United States and thus does not qualify as a "US export." Nearly all the clothing sold in the US are made in other countries, Mr Ryberg noted.

He acknowledged however that "Smart was very smart — if you'll excuse the pun — to move for an out-of-cycle review at this time because the Trump administration wants to show they're tough on trade. And such a demonstration is easy to make in the case of "three poor countries that can't fight back," Mr Ryberg added.

Smart initially wanted Kenya included in the trade agency's out-of-cycle review — a step that could have led to the loss of tens of thousands of Agoa-dependent jobs in Kenya.

IMPORTS

But US trade officials decided to exclude Kenya from the review on the grounds that the Nairobi government had reversed its move to join in a coordinated *mitumba* import ban by East African Community member-states.

Mr Ryberg said a new study by the US Agency for International Development (USAid) as signaling the likelihood of Trump administration punitive action against Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

USAid's East Africa Trade and Investment Hub concluded in a 30-page analysis stating that a ban on *mitumba* imports is not needed to bolster domestic clothing manufacturing in Africa.

"EAC policy makers would be well advised to keep both used clothing sector and AGOA export benefits while focusing on domestic industry development, knowing these are not mutually exclusive goals," the USAid trade hub study concluded.

USAid estimates that the used clothing industry accounts for 355,000 jobs in the EAC countries, which in turn generate US$ 230 million in income that supports some 1.4 million East Africans.

TEXTILE

The *mitumba* ban could meanwhile jeopardise another 219,000 jobs in East Africa related to Agoa, the study calculated. It noted that the EAC countries in 2016 exported US$ 435 million in goods to the US under Agoa, with clothing accounting for 88 per cent of the sum.

Tanzania would suffer significantly from loss of Agoa benefits because it has a small but significant clothing manufacturing sector, Mr Ryberg said.

"Uganda is trying to build its industry, and there has been some growth," he added. "The sad thing is, this (the loss of Agoa eligibility) will nip it in the bud."

Kenya is by far the largest Agoa beneficiary in East Africa and this standing motivated Nairobi's decision to withdraw from the *mitumba* phase-out agreement.

Kenya companies registered US$ 394 million in textile and apparel sales to US buyers last year.

Kenya is so eager to protect its Agoa-related revenues and jobs that it has retained not only Mr Ryberg's firm but another Washington lobbying group to help ensure that it retains duty-free access to the US market.

TOURISM

The Sonoran Policy Group, which includes executives with previous ties to the Trump administration, has been retained at a rate of US$ 100,000 per month for a period of at least three months to lobby on Kenya's behalf in regard to Agoa and to promote tourism.

The law firm of Ryberg and Smith, LLC was recently hired primarily to lobby against Kenya's inclusion in the out-of-cycle Agoa status review.

Disclosure forms filed at the US Justice Department show that Mr Ryberg's firm is being paid a base retainer fee of US$ 10,000.

The agreement with the Kenya Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperation calls for payment of an additional US$ 25,000 for services that the firm would provide if US trade officials were to include Kenya in the out-of-cycle Agoa eligibility review.

Officials at the Kenya embassy in Washington did not respond to requests for comment on the lobbying agreement with Mr Ryberg's firm.

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Of Sea Girls and my Kiswahili

in a Truly Palatial Setting for a New Commission

By Austin Bukenya

"I have heard the mermaids sing each to each. I do not think they will sing to me." T. S. Eliot's lines are what, absurdly, crept into my mind as the taarab lady singer belted out the classical "Uchungu wa mwana (the pain of the child)".

I say absurd because, first, Eliot's verse is quintessentially English and one can hardly see its link to the recondite Kiswahili in which the taraab was flowing. But those are some of the tricks which our multicultural minds keep playing on us.

Secondly, the lines are unnecessarily pessimistic because the "mermaids" were actually singing and dancing for me, through the sister at the microphone and the bevy of glamorous participating audience swaying and undulating ever so gently to the music at the foot of the stage.

Anyway, this was Zanzibar, and all the magic of the coast and its multitudinous waters, which first gripped me more than half a century ago, was once again exerting its intoxicating charm. I had landed on the Spice Island, as I have done several times before, and stayed for several days, joyfully inhaling and imbibing the ancient yet startlingly innovative Swahili way of life.

When the taraab band, for example, struck up, complete with its traditional instruments of zumari, gambuzi, kinanda and the rest, they were aided with state-of-the-art electronic amplification, and the stage was not only decorated with typical Swahili fabrics but also tastefully lit with strobe lights.

When they struck into soulful renditions of the golden oldies, it was as if the immortal departed of taarab art were back to vibrating life: Siti binti Sadi, Maalim Shaaban, Abdalla bin Mwengo, or even Bi. Kidude. The waghani onstage were the "sea-girls", the "sirens" whose music was so sweet that, like Homer's Odysseus, you had to be tethered up to avoid being irredeemably captured by it.

It was Siti that immortalised "uchungu wa mwana" as she crooned her way to stardom through the 1940s and 1950s. "The bitterness of the child (or of childbirth)," she sang, "is known only to Fatima, the child-bearer (mother).

But as I listened to the current rendition of the taarab, an idea flashed through my mind. That "uchungu (bitterness)" bit could be changed to "utamu (sweetness)".

The first line of the refrain would thus suggest "the sweetness of childbirth is best known to the mother". After all, adaptation is a common feature of orature. Even the original msemo (saying) on which Siti based her taarab had no "Fatima" in it. She put her in to give the line a stronger personal touch.

The "sweetness of childbirth" would have been even more appropriate then because the performance was the culmination of the inauguration ceremonies of the East African Kiswahili Commission.

The official "birth" of the Tume (EAKC) was marked by a two-day workshop that included rich reflective presentations by top scholars from the entire Kiswahili-speaking world, including Professors Alamin Mazrui, F. E. Senkoro and Clara Momanyi, the tabling of the commission's strategic plan and, of course, the official inauguration of this important institution of the East African Community.

The inauguration itself, witnessed by none other than Sheikh Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the former President of the United Republic, and an eminent scholar in his own right, was actually presided over by the current Vice-President of Tanzania, Bi. Samila Suluhu Hassan. (Do not tell anyone this, but, with all my hawkish watch of East African affairs and matters female leadership, I had not realised the Tanzanian Number Two was a woman until I saw her on the platform).

Her Excellency warmly welcomed us to Tanzania and she humbly but articulately underscored the importance of Kiswahili, for which she claimed origins in Zanzibar, as a unifying language of the region. She also assured us and the Commission of Tanzania's full support in our efforts to promote our unifying language. I was finally convinced that this island was probably the best place to host the Headquarters of the Commission.

Now, this was no small matter. In the early planning stages of the commission, many of the stakeholders had expressed the feeling that it should be based in Uganda, as the people there had the greatest need for encouragement with the language.

You can guess I would have been delighted about this. But when the time came for the commission to get going, the Waganda were just not ready, and Zanzibar was willing. In fact, it had always been willing, since they even have a Kiswahili Council of their own, BAKIZA (for Baraza la Kiswahili Zanzibar).

Zanzibar's respect for Kiswahili was brought home even more emphatically to me when we visited the palatial mansion from which my Kenyan colleague and friend, Prof Inyani Simala, the executive director, and his team run the affairs of the commission.
The place is a real "kasri" in the most elegant Swahili tradition, complete with lofty arches and an inner sun court. I could not help wondering if Kampala would have provided such premises.

But back to the "sweetness of childbirth", this special occasion of the inauguration of the EAKC was a moment of poignant joy for three persons who witnessed it.

Those were Professors Anna Kishe, Kimani Njogu — and me. Back in the first decade of this century, the three of us were invited, and challenged, by the East African Community to work as a taskforce on the setting up of an East African Kiswahili body.

It was quite a tall order, and there was no shortage of heartbreaks ("uchungu") for Anna Kishe, who represented Tanzania and chaired our small band, Prof Kimani, representing Kenya, and me from Uganda. But now, as we reunited in Zanzibar for the official "birth" of the Commission, we felt nothing but sweetness.

The taarab band played us Malaika and a few other classics. But they spared us Muhogo wa Jang'ombe (about the chang'aa addict). Maybe they thought we were too respectably Swahili for that.

Prof Bukenya is a leading scholar of English and Literature in East Africa.

Rethinking Conservation Funding Models in Africa

By Fred Nelson | Leela Hazzah | John Kasaona | Scott O'connell | Peter Riger | Bernie Tershy

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Conservation in sub-Saharan Africa faces monumental challenges.*
- *Ultimately, effective and durable conservation efforts require major investments in protecting large landscapes through government, community, and private institutions, and in improving governance at multiple levels.*
- *A key to meeting the challenges to effective conservation at scale is providing resources that enable creative and effective conservation organizations to deliver lasting results.*

Conservation in sub-Saharan Africa faces monumental challenges. Rapidly growing human populations and resource consumption are creating growing pressures on land, water and other natural systems. Weak governance coupled with market demands means that illegal use of natural resources- from fisheries, to timber, to elephant ivory- is a major driver of over-exploitation. Ultimately, effective and durable conservation efforts require major investments in protecting large landscapes through government, community, and private institutions, and in improving governance at multiple levels.

A key to meeting the challenges to effective conservation at scale is providing resources that enable creative and effective conservation organizations to deliver lasting results. Much of the discussion in conservation focuses on the limited amounts of funding available. However, an important, but less discussed, issue is how funding is delivered and accessed.

Recently, we brought together funders and conservationists working in Africa, to discuss funding approaches that can achieve greater impact on the ground. Here we draw on this gathering to summarize both challenges with existing funding models and possibilities for addressing those.

Existing Challenges

Lasting and effective conservation work depends heavily on innovative and capable local organizations that can develop new solutions and take them to scale. African conservation organizations, like organizations working for social and environmental change anywhere in the world, require enough funding to be creative, invest in their teams, and grow, and funding designed to increase on-the-ground impact. That means funding that rewards outcomes, and enables them to invest in core functions and capacity, particularly the recruitment and retention of top talent, staff development, and their core infrastructure. Building a successful organization with the ability to deliver great results takes time and therefore requires long-term funding.

This kind of funding is all too scarce in African conservation. The default funding model in conservation is through projects. Project funding is typically short-term, restricted, non-renewable, and generally rewards activities (what one does) rather than impact (what one achieves). Restricted project funding usually limits the organization's ability to adapt to changing circumstances and incorporate new ideas and insights. Project funding also frequently limits the ability of an organization to invest in core capacity and resources- particularly people- through arbitrary limitations on overheads or staff salary costs. Because conservation outcomes are rarely measured, funders often practice due diligence by heavily managing how grants are spent. This limits grantees' flexibility, creates heavy transaction costs, and almost always starves organizations of capital to invest in growth and resilience.

Moreover, funding is often not only prescriptive, but limited. While small-scale project funding (e.g. in the US$ 10,000 - US$ 20,000 range) may be valuable during the initial stages of new initiatives, there is a 'missing middle' in conservation funding between those relatively small grants and funding available through large-scale development aid and public funding agencies. While the latter has the advantage of providing multi-year, large-scale funding, the heavy transaction costs of securing and managing such funding- daunting proposal, reporting, and compliance requirements inherent to most international public funding sources- creates barriers for many local organizations.

A related challenge is the accessibility of funding 'markets'. For field-based and local groups in Africa, finding and connecting with funders is a major challenge. Conservation funding sources and markets are highly fragmented; there are few shared marketplaces or forums for funders and practitioners to meet and exchange information. This strongly favors large organizations that have already overcome the hurdles to developing sophisticated marketing and public relations operations.

Because of these problems, conventional conservation funding models can inhibit, rather than promote, the development of thriving organizations that meet the immense and growing challenges of African conservation. First, because time spent finding and reporting to funders comes at the expense of time spent on actions that drive impact. Second, restrictions on how funding can be used limit an organizations ability to quickly adapt and to invest in its core functions, internal development and future growth.

These challenges can play a significant factor in limiting conservation impact. They make it harder for newer entrepreneurial organizations to secure funding and become established, and to take promising models to scale.

Better Funding for Greater Impact

Funders and local conservation groups in Africa need to collaborate to promote better ways of doing business. This will require a shift in funding approaches that aligns impact with investment, and channels more funding to the organizations that deliver the best results.

One key measure is to focus on funding organizations, rather than projects. That means investing in an organization's core strategic goals and outcomes, and providing flexible or 'growth capital' that an organization can invest in delivery of results and building its internal capacity. Some large private funders operating primarily outside the conservation space are increasingly calling for and adopting these approaches. For example, the Ford Foundation's new BUILD program is investing US$ 1 billion over five years to support core capabilities and development of 300 grantees.

For their part, conservationists need to foster this kind of core investment by providing clear goals, priorities, and metrics in their strategies and plans. Funders and practitioners need to agree on key outcomes and metrics that are most appropriate for tracking and evaluating results.

A second priority is to become bolder and more ambitious in the provision of long-term funding. Funders need to address the 'missing middle' in conservation funding by providing effective young organizations with the kind of capital they need to grow. This often means core and unrestricted funding on the order of US$ 100,000 annually, significantly larger than the typical small grants available for much conservation work.

Beyond that mezzanine-level funding, is the importance of making even larger 'big bets' in organizations that have a strong track record and are positioned for greater impact. An example of this is a grant announced earlier this year by the Wyss Foundation, of US$ 65 million to African Parks- perhaps the largest private grant ever made in African conservation- for them to expand their successful protected area management model across Africa.

The growth of new financing models, such as trust funds, across the conservation field also provides a range of opportunities. These new long-term funds can potentially be directed at effective local organizations as a source of long-term support. This is part of the thinking behind a new Community Conservation Fund being developed by WWF and other local partners in Namibia. These kinds of long-term mechanisms for conservation funding stand in contrast to the relatively reactive, crisis-driven nature of much of African conservation funding.

African conservation funders and practitioners need to work together to develop a shared vision, reporting metrics, and partnership models that will enable both to achieve greater impact. To overcome communication barriers and reduce transaction costs, funders and practitioners need new virtual and physical spaces to come together and overcome existing barriers to communication and market fragmentation. An example of bringing funders and local conservationists from Africa and elsewhere together in new ways is the Wildlife Conservation Network's annual Exposition events held in a number of US cities.

Ultimately meeting African conservation challenges requires funding directed towards effective local organizations. New conversations and communications mechanisms – a better conservation marketplace – can more efficiently connect conservation funders and practitioners on the ground and result in better conservation outcomes. Funders and practitioners need to work together to build a conservation field in Africa that delivers greater impact, attracts more funding, and can tackle a world of growing threats.

Fred Nelson *is Executive Director of Maliasili Initiatives.*
Leela Hazzah *is co-founder and Executive Director of Lion Guardians.*
John Kasaona *is Executive Director of Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation in Namibia.*
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Bernie Tershy *is Adjunct Professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz and an advisor to the Mulago Foundation.*

Jamafest

A Tool for EAC Cultural Integration

By Fadhili Maganya

Jamafest is the codename for the East African community Arts and Culture Festival. The codename originates from the Kiswahili and English phrase "Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival"

Jamafest is a biennial cultural event, organised on rotational basis across the East African Partner States. The festival's main objective is to promote culture in its broad spectrum - music, dance, drama, and art among others.

The EAC Secretariat is mandated to oversee the event by taking charge in putting together all plans in ensuring that the events are properly planned and thus staged as when due. The EAC secretariat works hand in hand with departments and ministries charged with culture from the partner states.

The festival was approved by the EAC Council of Ministers in 2011 as one of the strategies through which we can foster socioeconomkc cohesion among East Africans. The first festival was staged in Rwanda in 2013 followed by Kenya in 2015 and then Uganda in 2017. Tanzania will be host to the next edition of the festival in 2019.

Since the inception of Jamafest, the festival has been convened under different themes while taking cognizance of the EAC motto, 'One people one destiny'

Jamafest has been bringing artist in various cultural disciplines; where men and women potray and exhibit the notion that "culturally, East African people are one" as their dances, songs and rythms sound very similar, leave alone the flavour in them.

Jamafest embraces "East Africanness". Looking into the history of the region, the current East African partner states where once upon a time one state, with no borders.

Fadhili is a Security Assistant at the EAC Secretariat

Tripartite Free Trade Agreement

By Damaris Wambui Nyaga

History of the TFTA

Since 2008, there were talks about merging the member states of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC).

In 2011, leaders of the 26 African countries within these three existing regional economic communities announced plans to negotiate a Tripartite Free Trade Area between them which would cover over 600 million people and an estimated US$ 1 trillion in trade.

In June 2011 in Johannesburg, governments adopted the negotiating principles, modalities for negotiations and a roadmap for negotiating such an agreement at the 2nd COMESA-EAC-SADC Summit.

The first negotiating round was held in Nairobi in December 2011.

When was the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) launched?

The Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) met on 10th June, 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt at the Third Tripartite Summit to officially launch the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA)

What drove the launch of the TFTA?

The stalemate of the multilateral trade system in addressing key trade and trade related issues over the years have mounted pressure on World Trade Organization (WTO) member states to search for alternative solutions. This pressure has directed countries' attention and efforts towards bilateral and regional trade arrangements as an immediate intervention to resolve some of the stagnated issues at the multilateral level.

Despite the pressure and the hurry for regional trade liberalization, concluding a comprehensive agreement both at bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations remains complex to achieve given the existence of varying economic divergences among countries.

With regard to the proposed TFTA among COMESA, EAC and SADC member states, it is one among the many regional economic communities (RECs) that have emerged over the years.

Core objective of the TFTA?

The supreme objective of the Tripartite is to contribute to the broader objectives of the African Union that is accelerating economic integration of the continent and achieving sustainable economic development leading to poverty alleviation and improvement in quality of life for the people of the Eastern and Southern African Region.

What is the key benefit of the TFTA?

The COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite is accelerating economic integration for the people of the Eastern and Southern African Region.

Which Member/Partner States have signed the TFTA Declaration?

Out of 26, 24 Member States have signed the Declaration. Only Libya and Eritrea are yet to sign.

How many members have signed the TFTA Agreement?

The TFTA Agreement has been signed by 21 of the 26 member countries, namely Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, State of Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Most recently, Mauritius signed the Agreement on 9th October 2017.

What must be met for the TFTA to be effected?

The Agreement requires 14 ratifications to enter into force. So far, only Egypt and Uganda have both signed and ratified the Agreement.
What is the current status of TFTA negotiations?
The Tripartite Summit had given Member States 12 months from the launch of the TFTA to conclude outstanding negotiation issues on rules of origin, trade remedies and tariff offers. However, due to a number of challenges faced in the process, the deadline of June 2016 was not met, and the commencement of Phase II negotiations – covering trade in services and other trade related matters – has been delayed pending the conclusion of negotiations on Phase I issues.

Brain Bashers

1

Below are five proverbs, however, each letter has been replaced by its position in the alphabet, but the spaces between the resulting numbers has been removed.

For example, DOG becomes 4157.

What are the proverbs?

1291156120851812911519151 4
1291151315208518129115412178205 18
1214165141425112231251920211814192116
1021475141520208120255251415201021475 4
1129202012512511814914791914114751815211920891 47

2

What day would tomorrow be if...
yesterday was five days before the day after Sunday's tomorrow?

3

Below you will find ten 6 letter words, however, every other letter is missing.

Can you determine the words?

-S-E-D -P-A-G -R-F-R

-Y-R-D -R-F-E -A-B-N

-A-E-A -O-D-G -S-F-L -I-S-E

4

If you are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas lamp.
You only have one match, so what do you light first?

5

Which of these is correct?
Six and Six IS eleven or six and six ARE eleven?

6

C	I	F	I	C	A	P	H	T	U	O	S	D	W	Y	I	S	A	X	D
R	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	K	N	B	P	R	S	E	I	D	A	L
R	D	N	E	W	S	L	E	T	T	E	R	A	M	U	S	K	Q	F	E
Y	E	M	A	R	G	O	R	P	E	S	T	S	R	E	T	E	E	R	G
N	A	N	S	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	E	C	I	V	S	I	P
T	R	D	N	H	A	D	X	M	R	L	I	O	E	N	P	L	E	E	I
W	G	O	S	I	U	R	I	C	X	U	P	C	G	G	R	S	L	N	H
R	O	H	N	E	W	L	E	V	V	R	S	E	E	F	A	Y	Y	D	S
A	E	P	S	E	N	S	D	E	T	A	D	T	S	O	P	S	T	S	R
V	R	H	R	H	V	D	K	N	E	V	E	N	T	S	E	H	S	H	E
A	E	Q	P	E	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	T	S	A	P	E	B
P	G	F	S	A	S	H	O	W	H	L	C	W	W	X	L	Q	S	D	M
U	U	R	N	G	R	I	W	C	Z	W	C	L	A	M	Q	L	N	L	E
B	L	E	M	G	N	G	D	H	I	S	T	O	R	I	A	N	O	A	M
L	A	W	E	N	K	I	O	E	K	K	P	W	F	G	R	A	I	N	S
I	T	O	H	I	I	W	T	T	N	W	N	E	M	F	G	V	T	O	E
C	I	L	T	T	F	E	T	E	O	T	U	H	A	P	E	V	I	I	C
I	O	F	N	I	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	K	T	E	S	T	O
T	N	K	A	R	S	Q	S	O	O	M	P	A	S	Z	E	I	O	A	N
Y	S	D	H	W	E	N	O	T	S	H	T	R	I	B	X	R	P	N	D

RULES	MEETINGS	ANTHEM
SECOND	MEMBERSHIP	BIRTHSTONE
SECRETARY	MESSAGE	COFFEE
SOUTHPACIFIC	NATIONAL	CONVENOR
SPEAKER	NEWSLETTER	DUES
STYLES	PASTPRESIDENT	EVENTS
TREASURER	PHOTOGRAPHER	FEES
TRIPS	POSITIONS	FLOWER
VICEPRESIDENT	POSTDATED	FRIENDS
WEDNESDAY	PRESIDENT	GATHERING
WINNER	PROGRAM	GREETERS
WRITING	PUBLICITY	HISTORIAN

1 Like father, like son.
Like mother, like daughter.
A bad penny always turns up.
Judge not, that ye be not judged.
A little learning is a dangerous thing.

2 Saturday

3 -S-E-D = ASCEND
-P-A-G = SPRANG
-R-F-R = PREFER
-Y-R-D = HYBRID
-R-F-E = TRIFLE
-A-B-N = CARBON
-A-E-A = CAMERA
-O-D-G = HOTDOG
-S-F-L = USEFUL
-I-S-E = TISSUE

4 **The match!**

5 Neither!
The answer is twelve!

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ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY