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EAC TABLES USD111M BUDGET PROPOSAL TO EALA FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020



Barely a week after Partner States presented their respective budgets, the EAC on 19 June 2019 presented for consideration, budget estimates for the Financial Year 2019/2020, totaling \$111,450,529 to the East African Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania, Hon Dr Damas Ndumbaro, presented the budget speech on behalf of the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Rwanda's Minister for State, EAC in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Hon Amb Olivier Nduhungirehe.

The 2019/2020 Budget is themed: "***Transforming lives through Industrialization and Job Creation for shared prosperity.***" According to the Chair of Council of Ministers, the priority interventions for FY 2019/2020, will focus on the consolidation of the Single Customs Territory and promotion of intra and extra EAC trade and export competitiveness, development of regional infrastructure, effective implementation of the Common Market Protocol and the enhancement of regional industrial development. Other areas include the implementation of the roadmap towards the EAC Monetary union, institutional transformation focusing on implementation of the institutional review recommendations and

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...Industrialization and job creation -key priorities for bloc

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improvement of performance management at the EAC Organs and institutions.

The Chair of Council proposes that 2019/2020 Budget be allocated to the Organs and Institutions of the EAC as follows; East African Community Secretariat (\$53,296,404), East African Legislative Assembly (\$18,973,845) and the East African Court of Justice (\$4,225,241). The Inter-University Council for East Africa shall receive (\$9,586,426), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (\$13,193,849) while \$ 4,061,145 is earmarked for the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

On their part, the East African Science and Technology Commission shall receive (\$ 1,915,073), East African Kiswahili Commission (\$ 1,474,775) and the East African Health Research Commission (\$ 3,996,270). The East African Competition Authority is to benefit from an amount of \$727,501 in the Financial Year 2019/20.

The 2019/2020 Budget is to be financed by Partner State contributions through the Ministries of EAC Affairs (\$49,791,446); Ministries responsible for Education – (\$4,379,968) and Ministries responsible for Fisheries (\$ 2,060,845). Development Partners will support the Community to the tune of (\$54,031,725) while Member Universities will inject in to the kitty \$ 468,300. The miscellaneous revenue is pegged at \$ 296,145 while the General Reserve shall contribute USD 422,100.

Other key areas the Minister said, include promotion of peace, security and good governance and the constitution making process for the EAC Political Confederation, factors that will be necessary for successful implementation of socio-economic programmes to further support the growth and development of the EAC region.

The EAC is further expected to streamline and further consolidate on its operational systems to achieve the desired level of efficiency, accountability and value for money. The Chair of Council of Ministers cited a number of assumptions on which this year's budget is pegged on to include the continued and consolidated political support of the EAC integration and the availability of adequate financial resources and remittances. Political stability and good governance as well as safe and stable security across the region are other areas of consideration.



Last Financial Year, the *august* House approved a Budget of US\$111,933,303. The said amount was earmarked for among others; consolidation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods; Infrastructural development in the region and liberalization of free movement of skilled labour across the Partner States.

The Minister cited performance of the EAC Organs and institutions in the above areas noting general improvements, enhanced partnerships and drive/enthusiasm to address existing and new challenges

On the global economic performance outlook, the Minister informed the House the global economy had expanded and that the EAC region had maintained its position as the fastest growing economic bloc. *"Mr. Speaker, given the accelerated growth within Sub-Saharan Africa attributed to strong agricultural production, rapid public investment and private consumption in the past two years, the EAC region has maintained its position as the fastest-growing sub-region in Africa, with estimated growth of 6.3 percent in 2018, up from a revised growth of 5.6 percent in 2017"*, the Chair of Council of Ministers said.

"Strong growth was widespread in the region, with Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda growing at more than 6 percent. Economic growth in Burundi and South Sudan remained subdued in 2018, with some strong signs of recovery. GDP growth in Burundi was 0.1 percent in 2018 compared with a contraction of about 1.3 percent in 2017. In South Sudan, the economy

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... Minister calls for heightened measures to ensure food security.

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contracted by 1.2 percent in 2018 compared to a contraction of 3.5 percent in 2017", Hon Dr Ndumbaro added.

On the legislative front, the Minister informed the House of enactment of three key pieces of legislation namely: the East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) (No.2) Bill of 2018; the East African Community Statistics Bureau Bill, 2017; and the East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2019. "The Council has accordingly lined up these pieces of legislation for assent by the Summit", the Minister remarked.

"Similarly, we are engaged in various studies, which should eventually culminate into pieces of legislation. At an opportune time therefore, this august House will have the opportunity to consider them or get the Council's response on some of the proposals coming through as private Members Bills", Hon Dr Ndumbaro informed the House.

The Chair of Council of Ministers further lauded the Assembly for the speed with which it is carrying out with its mandate.

On Infrastructure, the Minister informed the House of the completion of both the dual construction of the Sakina - Tengeru section, 14 km long, and construction of the 42-km long Arusha by-pass. He informed the House of the completion of detailed design studies linking the 400-km long Malindi-Lunga Lungu and Tanga-Bagamoyo road between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania and that discussions between the African Development Bank and the two Governments were in place and at advanced stage. Also completed are the feasibility studies and designs linking the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to the Central Corridor.

On Civil aviation and airport matters, the House was informed the EAC Secretariat had during the year under review, coordinated the implementation of the EAC seamless upper airspace project including the harmonization of regulations, manuals of air navigation services operations and development of common secondary surveillance radar (SSR) codes. A memorandum of understanding for establishment, operationalization and management of EAC upper airspace has further been developed to facilitate the acquisition of interoperable air navigation infrastructure and services.


On agriculture and food security, the EAC Minister said the region remained committed to fully support implementation of the June 2014, African Heads of State Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Growth and Transformation in Africa. "The Community continues to prioritize implementation of the Malabo Declaration made by Heads of States in June 2014 on Agricultural Growth and

Transformation in Africa and being implemented under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact framework", the Minister remarked.

The Minister called for heightened measures to ensure food security. "Mr. Speaker, in the financial year 2019/20, the Community will focus on key agricultural sector priorities including: supporting coordination and implementation of EAC CAADP Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) and EAC Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan (FNSAP), strengthening regional coordination and EAC Partner States capacities for domestication. The minister also affirmed the Community's desire to strengthen the regional Food Balance Sheet to establish Regional Food Market Intelligence Hub under which detailed crop harvesting calendar, a move considered important for mitigating potential significant shortfalls in food production and distribution at certain times of the year.

On health matters, Hon Dr Ndumbaro said the Secretariat continued to implement major disease prevention and control initiatives in the region with financial and technical support from the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW) and GIZ. The Secretariat, he said, was in process of acquiring nine mobile laboratory units and 18 vehicles to bolster Partner States capacity to detect and respond to the most dangerous disease-causing agents such as Ebola. Under the same project, 12 laboratories experts' trainers of trainees (TOTs) two from each Partner State, were trained on the use of specialized laboratory techniques and use of advanced laboratory equipment.

Hon Dr Ndumbaro remarked the EAC on June 11-14th, 2019 undertook one of the biggest and most complex health sector led field simulation exercises in Africa at the Namanga border point. The Field simulation exercise enhanced Partner States' capacity in pandemic preparedness and response. In addition, the Council of Ministers approved the EAC State of Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health and HIV&AIDS Report 2018, the 2018 EAC Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and HIV&AIDS Scorecard, as well as the EAC Regional Policy of Prevention Management and Control of Alcohol Drugs and other Substance use, 2019.

On environment and natural resources, the august House was informed of the development of an action plan on the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and a corresponding training manual that *inter alia*, maps out disasters evacuation centres in Partner States; and strengthens/harmonizes existing regional early warning systems. At the same time, the budget speech noted the progress made with respect to the framework for conservation and management of transboundary ecosystem(s) in the region. 

Arusha hosts 15th Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports



The 15th EAC Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports Concluded on Friday 7th June 2019 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The 5-day meeting was convened to consider matters related to Education and Training; Culture and Sports; the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC); the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA); and the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTEKO).

Chairing the meeting, Mr. Samuel Mulindwa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Republic of Rwanda pointed out the important role of Education, Science and Technology and Innovation in the development of the East African Region.

"This Sectoral Council is of paramount importance in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol, especially the free movement of people, labour and services", noted Mr. Mulindwa. The Permanent Secretary further added that while considerable progress had been made, challenges still remained hindering the attainment of the intended goals of the

integration, and as such, it was important for Partner States to enhance their commitment in finding urgent solutions to these challenges.

On his part, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo further reiterated the important role of the Sectoral Council in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol especially the free movement of people, labour and services.

"The EAC has made progress in harmonization of Partner States' education curricula, structures and frameworks, it is however crucial to conclude the harmonization process so that the intended benefits can be attained," said the Deputy Secretary General.

Hon. Bazivamo informed the meeting of the progress that has been made in signing Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) and the challenges that still face their implementation.

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• Tanzania to host JAMAFEST 2019

• Uganda to host 1st EAC Science, Technology and Innovation Conference

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“The commitment of Partner States in the harmonization of fees, establishment and operationalization of Regional Centers of Excellence and development of mobility programmes for Academic staff and students will play an important role towards the realization of the EAC Common Higher Education Area”, added Hon. Bazivamo.

Considering Education and Training matters, the Sectoral Council directed the Partner States to enhance sensitization and awareness of the EAC Essay Writing competition to enable more school and students to participate.

On Culture on Sports matters, the Sectoral Council approved the 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival – JAMAFEST to be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 21st to 28th September 2019, under the theme “**Cultural Diversity; A Key Driver to Regional Integration, Economic Growth and Promotion of Tourism**”. Further, the Sectoral Council approved the 2nd Edition of EAC Games 2020 to be hosted in the Republic of Rwanda.

The importance of Kiswahili in regional integration and sustainable development is underscored in Articles 137 of the EAC Treaty that recognizes Kiswahili as the *lingua franca* of the Community. In line with further promoting Kiswahili as the *lingua franca*, the Sectoral Council approved the commencement of implementation of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC) Mobility Programme. The EAKC Mobility Policy and Programme is a framework of strategic partnerships and strong and broad cooperation and a tool to provide opportunities for Kiswahili stakeholders to interact.

The Meeting also approved the Draft Principles and Guidelines for Kiswahili Training Programmes and Manuals in the EAC, which provide broad policy recommendations on the approach and process of designing, developing and delivering Kiswahili Training Programmes in the EAC. The Principles and Guidelines take into account the changing dynamic of the language at national, regional, continental and global levels. They are intended to provide direction and consistency in a generally common manner in decision making in the development of Kiswahili training Programmes in the EAC, while at the same time, recognizing and taking into account, the various linguistic situations, Kiswahili policies and organizational structures in the Partner States.

In an effort to contribute to sensitizing a large populace in the Community on the regional integration process and sustainable development agenda of the EAC, the EAKC initiated the


process of translating the EAC Treaty from English into Kiswahili. In this regard, the Sectoral Council has directed the Commission to submit the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili to Partner States for comments and further inputs.

The 15th meeting of the Sectoral Council further directed the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) to finalize the Engineering benchmarks and to sensitize and disseminate the finalized benchmarks in Business related subjects, Education, Computer Science and IT, Medicine and Agriculture to the Partner States and develop a roadmap in other disciplines.

The benchmarks provide a frame of reference for universities when developing and reviewing academic programmes and curricular in order to ensure that the programmes and curricular in the region are harmonized.

On matters presented by the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), the meeting approved the biennial EAC Science, Technology and Innovation Conference planned for 13th to 14th September 2019, to be hosted in the Republic of Uganda, under the theme “**Harnessing Technology and Innovation for sustainable socio-economic development and regional integration**”.

The goal of the EAC STI Conference is to provide an opportunity for public-private partnership for enhanced linkages among Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) stakeholders in the EAC Partner States and the region to support STI information sharing, technology diffusion, transfer and innovation for transformation the EAC region in a knowledge based economy.

The meeting was attended by Ministers, Cabinet Secretary, Permanent/Principal/Under Secretaries and Senior Officials from Partner States Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports, and Science and Technology Commissions. 

World Bank, three Governments and IUCEA launch US\$293 million regional skills development Project for East Africa

The Eastern Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) has been launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Three East African countries will participate in the project including Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. The project supports the development of highly specialized Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs as well as industry-recognised short term certificate level training, and will target regional priority sectors in transport, energy, manufacturing and ICT. EASTRIP will be financed by the World Bank as an IDA loan of \$210 million and a grant of \$83 million. \$8 million of the grant will go to The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) to facilitate and coordinate the project and implement regional initiatives that would promote the mobility of students and faculty within and beyond the region and to establish a community of practice of TVET in the region.



The project was officially launched by the Minister of State for Science and Higher Education, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Hon. Dr. Abdiwasa Abdilahi. He thanked the World Bank for considering TVET and approving the project as an IDA credit and grant. "We are all aware of the magnitude and significance of TVET role in developing countries such as ours, and we also know TVET is currently at an infant stage," he said.

Hon. Abdilahi noted that the low recognition of TVET has contributed to its low perception status. "Thus it needs our attention and active engagement to bring the status of TVET up to speed to where other nations are currently."

According to the World Bank EASTRIP Team Leader Xiaoyan Liang, a quality demand-driven TVET system can be a powerful engine for youth skills development leading to employment and poverty alleviation, and for economic restructuring and transformation, as already demonstrated in the Republic of Korea, Singapore and China, where TVET has been used as an instrument and channel for technology transfer and skills upgrading of workers. In 2010 the Republic of Korea converted a selected number of high schools into vocational meister high schools that partner with companies to create educational experiences tailored to the needs of the workforce.

The World Bank Country Director for Regional Integration, Deborah L. Wetzel, stressed the need for Africa to industrialise and integrate.

"Low productivity and capacity impede the diversification, industrialization, and modernization progress, and if not addressed could impede and even reverse economic growth. Industrialization and Regional Integration are key development and transformation strategies for Africa," she said. "Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania represent the initial group of countries working together to establish Regional Flagship TVET Institutes that will not only provide the skilled workers required by the growing economies but also, as the word "flagship" entails, become shining stars to trigger and guide continental wide TVET reform."

World Bank Practice Manager, Safaa El Tayeb El – Kogali, said by the end of the project a total of 60,000 youths will be trained. "The project is a flagship that will set standards and that's what we hope to create. We hope that more and more countries will join and we hope that this will be the beginning of a longer term process of upgrading skills for youths."

Based on government nomination and competitive selection, 16 Regional Flagship TVET Institutes (RFTIs) were selected. Each flagship will specialize in specific sectors and occupations with niche programs in highly specialized TVET diploma and degree programs, as well as industry recognized short-term courses. EASTRIP will strengthen the capacity of the 16 RFTIs to

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...TVET institutes sign MOUs with industry partners to collaborate in the development of demand-driven training programs

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produce skills for the regional sector markets in transport, port management, energy, light manufacturing, and ICT.

Prof. Mike Kuria, the Deputy Executive Secretary of IUCEA, the Regional Facilitation Unit of the project pledged IUCEA's "commitment and determination to make EASTRIP a truly transformative project not only for the three participating countries but also for the rest of East Africa and beyond the borders of the region."

By the end of the five year project, the 16 institutes will have at least doubled their capacity to collectively enroll 20,000 students on an annual basis in both long-term and short term training programs in the targeted disciplines.

At the launch, some of the TVET institutes signed MOUs with industry partners to collaborate in the development of demand-driven training programs, student internships, faculty attachment, and share of latest training technology, scholarships, and other win-win partnership programs.

The project is expected to close in December 2024.



Sector	Focus	Center Name	Country
Transport/ Infrastructure	Railway	Meles Zenawi Memorial TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Railway	Ethiopia Railway Academy	Ethiopia
	Marine	Kenya Coast National Polytechnic	Kenya
	Air	National Institute of Transport	Tanzania
	Road	Kombolcha TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Building infrastructure	Meru National Polytechnic	Kenya
	Highway infrastructure	Kenya Institute of Building and Highway Technology	Kenya
Power/Energy	Power/energy	General Wingate Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Geothermal	KenGen Geothermal Institute	Kenya
	Hydro	Arusha Technical College	Tanzania
Manufacturing	Tool making	TVET Institute	Ethiopia
	Textile/garment	Hawassa TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Textile	Kisumu National Polytechnic	Kenya
	Leather	DIT Mwanza Campus	Tanzania
	Agro-processing	Holeta TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
ICT	ICT	DIT Dar es Salaam Campus	Tanzania

EAC Cross-Border simulation reveals critical lessons for pandemic preparedness and response



The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat successfully concluded a three-day cross-border Field Simulation Exercise, conducted on the Kenya – Tanzania border at Namanga One Stop Border Post (OSBP), with critical results and lessons for pandemic preparedness and response.

Over 250 participants from both countries, besides those from Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda took part in the exercise. The exercise was conducted based on a scenario of an outbreak of a disease that impacts both human and animal lives and their livelihoods, including agriculture, tourism, security, trade and the economy as a whole. The exercise created an opportunity in which participants were able to identify strengths and weaknesses and facilitate practical corrective actions at all levels.

During the Simulation Exercise, community members in Kenya and Tanzania participated in events based on an evolving scenario designed to evoke real responses. "Prevention and responding to epidemics is not a sole responsibility of the health sector but rather requires a collective effort from various sectors including the community"

said Hon Umyy Ally Mwalimu, the Tanzanian Minister for Health, Gender Community Development, Elderly and Children while officiating opening ceremony on Tuesday morning.

As part of the scenario, early warning, infections and deaths in animals and human beings prompted the reporting and activation of national and regional preparedness and response mechanisms. The involvement of human health, animal health and other sectors reinforced the importance of the One Health approach and of appropriate risk and crisis communication, as well as cross-border collaboration.

Speaking on the official opening, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Affairs and Regional Development from Kenya, Hon Adan Abdallah Mohammed observed that with the looming Ebola epidemic in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, it was important for the two Partner States to collaborate and share experience when responding to cross-border outbreaks.

All Ministers while jointly officiating at opening of the exercise commended the partners

for their support. Through imaginary scenarios under real conditions and public involvement, regional and national-level experts were able to test processes in place and identify opportunities for improvement of existing plans. Community members in both countries were able to see firsthand the importance of their involvement in emergency preparedness and response.

The Field Simulation Exercise was facilitated by the World Health Organisation with support from Deutsche Gesellschaft for Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) of the Germany government and other partners.

The simulation exercise participants worked diligently to avoid disruption of operations at the border and at other sites where activities took place. People working at and traversing the OSBP carried on with their regular activities, while actors posing as ill people tested plans in place to identify and isolate people with certain symptoms at the border. Other activities tested plans associated with transport of animals, readiness of airport response, and EAC coordination and advisory strategies.



South Sudan Private Sector and Civil Society sensitized on opportunities and benefits of EAC integration agenda



A two-day training and sensitisation workshop for private sector and civil society on the opportunities and benefits of regional integration was held on 4th to 5th June, 2019, in Juba, the Republic of South Sudan (RSS).

The training and sensitisation workshop was jointly organized by the South Sudan's Ministry of Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs; the EAC Secretariat; and the GIZ-EAC Programme, within the framework of the approved EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF).

Addressing the participants, the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko commended the Government of South Sudan for the steps it was taking to restore peace as the cornerstone of growth and stability and the continuing implementation of its commitments in the accession Treaty.

The Secretary General, who was represented by the Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, Ms. Generose Minani, noted that private sector and civil society operations can only be meaningfully anchored on predictable stability and policy consistency at the social, economic, and political levels.

He appreciated the cooperation programmes that EAC is implementing with the support of GIZ in South Sudan in line with the roadmap to fast track the new Partner State's integration into the EAC. He noted that the implementation of the projects and programmes focusing on building capacities of the PSO's and the CSO's to enable their effective regional engagement were prioritized in the forgoing roadmap.

He called on the stakeholders to take advantage of the information shared at the workshop to build their capacities and skills so as to be able to effectively engage and benefit from the opportunities available in the region and build lasting partnerships with their counterparts in the wider EAC.

On her part, the representative from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs of South Sudan, Ms. Robina Gune underscored the commitment and motivation of the stakeholders in RSS and their readiness to push forward the integration agenda and take advantage of the available opportunities.

The Ministry official noted that although RSS was still behind in many areas of integration, the Ministry, Private Sector Organizations (PSOs) and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the country were committed towards developing the necessary implementation structures and consolidating the required synergies and capacities to implement the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework.

She called on the PSOs and CSOs to engage the Ministry on the critical support and platforms that the latter should put in place to ensure the implementation of the CDF in RSS to enhance the realisation of a people centred and market driven cooperation with the expected benefits to the citizenry.

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IUCEA awards US\$1 million to establish incubation centers at Africa Centers of Excellence



The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), a Regional Facilitation Unit for the World Bank-supported Africa Centers of Excellence for East and Southern Africa Project (ACE II) has completed the process of selection of Incubation Centers to be hosted at four of the Africa Centers of Excellence (ACEs). Each Center will receive a financial award of US\$ 250,000, a World Bank grant, as seed funds for the establishment of these regional Incubation Centers for East and Southern Africa. The ACEs selected to host the Incubation Centers are:

1. **ACEESD** – African Center of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development, University of Rwanda
2. **CREATES** – Center for Research Advancement, Teaching Excellence and Sustainability in Food and Nutrition Security, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania
3. **PHARMBIOTRAC** – Center for Pharm-Bio Technology and Traditional Technology, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
4. **PTRE** - Center of Excellence in Phytochemicals, Textile and Renewable Energy based at Moi University, Kenya

IUCEA received 15 proposals in response to a call that was issued in June 2018. The call invited any African Center of Excellence participating in the ACE II Project to submit proposals to host Incubation Centers through a co-financing arrangement in the four priority areas of the ACE II Project which include health, industry, agriculture, and education/applied statistics. The proposals were evaluated through a rigorous 3-step process by an international team of experts with extensive experience in business incubation, start-ups creation and successful commercialization of innovations and covered a diverse array of important topics -- such as energy for sustainable development, innovative drugs development, food and nutrition security, among others -- that are critical to the development of the region.

In the evaluation process priority was given to ACEs that already had good enough products that may require improvement, promotion for wider markets and potential for business incubation, i.e. the process of nurturing of early stage ventures to success. Another key criterion considered

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Workshop part of a series of activities supported by GIZ-EAC on sensitising, building capacity and elevating the profile of the private sector and the civil society in RSS

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Ms. Robina Gune applauded the EAC Secretariat, GIZ - EAC programme for the support in building capacity of the private sector and civil society in RSS on the benefits and opportunities of the EAC integration.

At the same occasion, the Cluster Coordinator of the EAC-GIZ programme, Dr. Focken Kirsten said GIZ-EAC Programme prides itself to be associated with the workshop, which was part of a series of activities that it is supporting the EAC in sensitising, building capacity and elevating the profile of the private sector and the civil society in RSS in order for these two sectors to play a lead role in securing the benefits and opportunities of the integration.

Dr. Focken noted that the EAC regional integration benefits transcend trade, economic development, democratisation, gender development and inclusion of people with disabilities and youth, peace building, investments, infrastructure development, health and human rights, among others, for citizens of EAC including South Sudan's CSOs and PSOs that can only be realized when these stakeholders are meaningfully engaged.

The EAC sensitization workshop; whose objective was to share information, impart skills, and capacitate the stakeholders in the two sectors to benefit from regional integration of RSS into the EAC; concluded with recommendations on the need for:

1. focused workshops for related clusters of the civil society and private sector associations in RSS;
2. availability of simplified documentations on the projects and programmes of the Community and their implementation frameworks in RSS;
3. seeking opportunities for attachments in the EAC for RSS focal persons in the apex associations should be explored;
4. mobilisation of resources to train trainers to sustain the training momentum in RSS for the CSOs and PSOs and learning visits in the region for benchmarking;

financial and technical support to the Ministry responsible for EAC Affairs to implement the CDF Framework and create the dialogue framework in RSS for the PSOs and CSOs. 

innovation potential of African research a key lever in the continued economic development of the continent

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was the capacity to source additional sources of co-financing for the Center, to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the incubation center.

According to Dr. K. A. Appiah, a member of the Regional Steering Committee of the ACE II project who chaired the Independence Selection Panel, "the quality of the proposals that were submitted was quite high, and it was a difficult decision to have to select only 4 out of the 15 proposals submitted," he said. He added, "We hope that more funding can be made available by host governments and other institutions to fund other incubation centers. Our international team of experts were very impressed and eager to work with the selected ACEs to ensure that the selected incubation centers are successful in commercializing research innovations towards job creation and economic growth."

The selection panel recommended that although the fifth selected institution, Center for Innovative Drugs Development and Therapeutic Trials for Africa (CDT-Africa) could not be funded, the proposal "was one of the best and needed to be considered as a non-funded Incubation Center."

The IUCEA and the World Bank believe that such incubation centers will help build important linkages between academia and industry to help galvanize business growth in these priority areas that are critical to long-term growth and development of the region.

"The World Bank believes strongly in the innovation potential of African research, as a key lever in the continued economic development of the continent, and these incubations centers will serve as important hubs where the impact of research can be transformed to commercial opportunities. We hope these centers will be the first among many to follow," said Dr. Roberta Malee Bassett, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank and Task Team Leader for ACE II Project.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (ACE II) Project supports the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia in strengthening selected African Centers of Excellence (ACEs) to deliver quality post-graduate education and build collaborative research capacity in the priority areas of (i) Industry, (ii) Agriculture, (iii) Health, (iv) Education, and (v) Applied Statistics. 

5th Meeting of the ad hoc Competition Authority held in Dar



The 5th Meeting of the ad hoc EAC Competition Authority (EACA) concluded on Friday 7th June, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with the swearing in of Dr. John K. Mduma, as a Commissioner of the EAC Competition Authority from the United Republic of Tanzania. The swearing in ceremony was conducted by the Counsel to the Community, Dr. Anthony Kafumbe, while the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Secrecy was administered by the Registrar of the East African Court of Justice, Mr. Yufnalis N. Okubo.

Addressing the Commissioners on behalf of the Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, the Counsel to the Community, Dr. Kafumbe commended the Commissioners for their commitment to the EAC competition agenda and noted that their work was very critical in regulating mergers and acquisitions, and handling issues of market dominance and protection of consumer welfare in the Community.

He recalled that section 42 of the Competition Act gives the Competition Authority power to among others, investigate and compel evidence, hold hearings and issue binding decisions. "Given such a broad mandate, the work of the Commissioners is in many respects confidential and sensitive. Accordingly, it requires a high degree of impartiality, independence and integrity", asserted the Counsel to the Community.

He congratulated Dr. John K. Mduma on his appointment as a Commissioner by the 38th Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council held in January, 2019, and said that it was a requirement of the Community Law that before a Commissioner commences duties, he or she must take an Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Secrecy.

The Chairperson of the Commissioners, Dr. Didas M. Kayihura highlighted some of the milestones so far recorded that include, among others, preparing proposals to amend the EAC Competition Act; the preparation of the Authority's first Strategic Plan 2019/2020 – 2023/2024; and the implementation of some of the activities in the strategic plan.

The Chairperson further noted that EAC Competition law was intended to facilitate trade within the EAC region by regulating anti-competitive conduct by firms as a result of intensified regional integration.

He noted that the Authority's mandate will be better executed where all Partner States have functional competition agencies.



Meeting to improve Air Transport in EAC concludes in Naivasha, Kenya

The 45th East African Community Consultative Meeting aimed at improving Air Transport in the region concluded on Friday 17th May, 2019, at Lake Naivasha Resort in Naivasha, Kenya.

The EAC Consultative meeting on facilitation of Air Transport is a forum for discussion on issues that affect Air Transport in the region in order to comply with Annex 9 (Air Transport Facilitation) and Annex 17 (Aviation Security) of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation. The meeting refers to the ICAO international standards and recommended practices and proposes appropriate recommendations to be implemented by the Partner States at the various EAC international Airports. It is hosted by EAC Partner States, twice a year on rotational basis.

Addressing the delegates from the EAC Partner States, the Principal Secretary in the Republic of Kenya's State Department of Transport, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, Ms. Esther Koimett underscored the importance of EAC Air Transport facilitation forum in ensuring the smooth movement of passengers, goods and aircrafts at all EAC international airports.

The Principal Secretary, who was represented by the Principal Air Transport Officer, Mr. Benjamin Enyenze, urged Partner States to continuously respond to emerging challenges in order to cope with aviation and non-aviation demands as well as strive to meet international standards. She reminded the participants that Air transport plays a key role in the promotion of trade, tourism and economic growth of the region.

"Air Transport facilitation is an important aspect of aviation and the EAC airports have to continuously enhance capacity of existing infrastructure to be able to cope with future aviation demands, meet international requirements and contend with the ever changing threats against Civil Aviation", noted Ms. Koimett, adding that "the solutions to the challenges we face with regard to infrastructure, safety, security and environmental concerns require a consultative approach in a forum like this".

The two-day Forum was attended by representatives from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Aviation and Airport



Authorities, Airlines, Customs, Immigration and other stakeholders from all the Partner States. Mr. Eric Ntagengerwa, the Principal Civil Aviation Officer, represented the EAC Secretariat.

The 45th EAC Consultative meeting of Air Transport commenced with a visit of the various facilities at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). The participants commended the Republic of Kenya for proper coordination of various stakeholders at both Cargo and passenger terminals and for putting in place clean and well organized facilities at both the cargo shed and within terminal buildings, enhancing air transport facilitation and security.

The participants also suggested areas of improvements at the Airport including, among others, the need to screen imported goods at the cargo terminal for security reasons, to put in place quarantine area for contaminated animals, and to ensure uniformity of application of disembarkation cards on immigration at arrival.

The meeting further discussed and agreed among other recommendations, to ensure continuous improvement of clearance processes at the EAC international Airports, to introduce online payment systems for all Air operators, to fully implement paperless immigration process, to share information on people involved in pilferage at EAC Airports for monitoring purpose, and to increase their non-aeronautical revenue streams so as to reach a 30:70 ratio by 2020.

The meeting also agreed on important emerging issues in Air Transport that will be discussed in the next EAFAL meetings including, but not limited to Airport facilitation and customer satisfaction, passenger data exchange systems, Airport Collaboration Decision Making (ACDM) and development of regulations to govern/facilitate operations of drones in EAC.



Meeting present needs without compromising future generation's needs

The Chairperson of the 20th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin (20th SECOM), Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister for Environment of Rwanda has urged delegates from five Partner States of the East African Community to enhance efforts towards meeting present needs without compromising next generation's needs.

According to the Chairperson of the 20th SECOM, the realization of such development aspiration lies in putting in place a green economy model, ensuring social equity and striving for wellbeing of citizens in East African Partner States. He made the remarks while opening the Ministerial Session of the 20th SECOM held in Kisumu, Republic of Kenya, 24th May 2019.

The Chair's call for sustainability was also emphasized by the Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Dr. Ally Said Matano whose message to the Ministers from EAC Partner States centrally focused on 14 areas of cooperation for Lake Victoria Basin as articulated in the Protocol for Sustainable Development for Lake Victoria Basin.

Central areas of cooperation in the Protocol for Sustainable Development include, sustainable and development of water resources, promotion of sustainable agriculture, sustainable management and development forestry, improvement of public health and sanitation, wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism, among others.

Interventions through programmes and projects regionally coordinated by LVBC and implemented in EAC Partner States are informed by the 14 areas of cooperation and existing development needs of the citizens in the EAC Partner States. LVBC Executive Secretary underscored the importance of the 20th SECOM, noting its decisions and directives guide the LVBC towards the attainment of its objectives and implementation of programmes and projects in Lake Victoria Basin and EAC Partner States.

The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that after the successful completion of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation project phase II, over 7 million people are expected to access clean water while 1.5 million will have access to healthy sanitation facilities in Lake Victoria Basin. Several socio-economic and environmental benefits can be attributed to this project in all five Partner State. The SECOM comprises of Ministers of Environment, Water, Health, Sanitation, Forestry and other interrelated sectors.

He outlined key achievements and future targets for the LVBC which included fast-tracking processes towards actualizing "the Commission's and Partner States' dream to have a permanent home" in Kisumu, Kenya. The foregoing is in line with directive of the Council of Ministers relating to disbursement of funds for construction of LVBC Headquarters in Kisumu, Kenya. LVBC Executive Secretary commended the chairmanship of the Republic of Uganda which enabled securing of \$ 1, 350,000 as partial funds for construction of LVBC Headquarters.

He equally extended his appreciations to the Development Partner such as World Bank, Nordic Development Fund, KWF, USAID, AfDB



and others for supporting LVBC's sustainable development process in the wider Lake Victoria Basin. He pledged proactive engagement of development partners and other stakeholders for further support specifically on initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture in the Lake Victoria Basin, Transboundary Sludge Management poor urban dwellers and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management.

Kenya's delegate to the Meeting 20th SECOM, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development, Hon. Ken Obura reiterated Kenya's commitment towards regional integration and sustainable conservation of natural resources within Lake Victoria Basin.

"Kenya is fully committed to the regional cooperation process and shall continue supporting projects and programmes implemented in the Basin for the benefit of citizenry of the East African Community," Hon. Obura said. He noted that the LVBC's promotion of sustainable development in Lake Victoria was a worthy cause and in line with Kenya's development agenda.

The Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, East African Community, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, commended EAC Partner States for joining a community of other African States in signing agreements and conventions geared towards environmental sustainability. He lauded LVBC for completing Climate Change Adaption Strategy and Action Plan adopted by the 38th Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers.

EAC Deputy Secretary General remarked that emerging environmental and natural resources management challenges need concerted efforts so that Partner States' commitments—improving the quality of life of EAC citizens and attaining sustainable development objectives—are not undermined in the future. He outlined key EAC policy and legal frameworks acting as ample evidence of EAC's readiness to achieve sustainable development. In line with EAC guiding ideal—citizen centered regional integration, Hon. Bazivamo urged delegates to reprioritize regional initiatives with greater and tangible impacts to local communities.



East African Bicycle Tour 2019 set for 1st August to 20th September 2019

The 3rd East African Bicycle Tour (Tour d'EAC 2019) themed "*Integrate or Perish*" is set for 1st August to 20th September 2019, with over 100 cyclists taking on an epic route of over 4,300 km around East Africa over a course of 50 days.

According to the Team Leader and Director of Campfire Logs Guild of Uganda, the lead organizer of the Bicycle Tour, Mr. John Bosco Balongo, the 3rd East African Bicycle Tour will be flagged off on 1st August 2019 at the Independence Monument in Kampala, Uganda by the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. A. M. Kirunda Kivejinja.

The aim of the Annual East African Bicycle Tour, code named Tour d'EAC, is to promote the spirit of the *East Africanness* among the people of East Africa, promote tourism and business potential of the Community while enhancing the awareness of social and cultural peculiarities of people and places in the East African Community. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to bring the citizens of East Africa to own the integration process.

The East African Bicycle Tour is an expression of unity, oneness, togetherness and peace. By riding through all the East African countries, the ties that bind East Africans together is renewed and strengthened. The event welcomes every East African from whatever part of the region to take part.

The route of the 3rd Bicycle tour will cover Kampala-Jinja-Malaba on the Ugandan side. On the Kenyan side, it will pass through Malaba-Eldoret-Nakuru-Nairobi-Kajiado to Namanga.

On the Tanzanian side, the tour will connect Namanga-Longido-Arusha-Moshi-Dares Salaam-Chalinze-Morogoro-Gairo-Dodoma-Nzega to Tabora. From Tabora, it will pass through Usinge and enter Burundi through Mugina-Manyonvu border.

In Burundi, the tour will connect Rumonge-Bujumbura-Ngozi to Rwanda border then to Kigali. From Kigali, the tour will pass through Ruhengeri to Kisoro-Kihiki-Mbarara then to Kampala. The Campfire Logs Guild is partnering with several persons/or organizations in the Partner States to undertake the 3rd EAC Bicycle Tour.

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeke has commended the organizers of this initiative led by Campfire Logs Guild of Uganda and said that the Tour d'EAC will go a long way to promote the EAC integration agenda.

"We have endorsed this event and written to the Permanent/Principal Secretary/Undersecretary in the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in the Partner States notifying and requesting them to support and assist the organizers to undertake this tour successfully in their respective territories", asserted the Secretary General.



For Registration/more information on the Tour, please contact:

Owora Richard Othieno, Head of Department; Corporate Communications and Public Affairs; Tel: +255 784 835021; Email: oothieno@eachq.org;

or the following:-

Mr. John Bosco Balongo: +256752483680, email: campfirelogs-guild@gmail.com; eacbiketour@gmail.com;

Republic of Burundi: Mr. Evarest Niyonzima, Tel +25779717089, email: evariseniyonsaba@gmail.com or Kwizera Anicet of Anicent Jamaica Production, email: anicentjamaica@gmail.com; Tel:+25775915052; and Mr. Oscar Bahizi from the Ministry to the Office of the President Responsible for EAC Affairs Burundi; Tel +257 79977742;

Republic of Kenya: Mr. Benjamin Bor: [Tel: +254-722-304484](tel:+254-722-304484), email: benbor43@gmail.com;

Republic of Rwanda: Mr. Michael Kamanzi, Tel: +250727264818

United Republic of Tanzania: Mr. Manyori Makongoro Mohammed: Tel: +255 686 604050, email: manyorimorris@gmail.com;

Republic of Uganda: Mr. Andrew Ssemwogerere, Tel +256 706 716804, email ssemanda.sa@gmail.com;

**Editorial Team:**

Owora Richard Othieno; Simon Peter Owaka; Aileen Mallya; Bobi Odiko; Annah Nabaasa; Florian Mutabazi; J.R.Luwali (Photographer) & Mukhtar Abdul Bolyao (Photographer)

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www.eac.int

For further information please contact:

Richard Owora Othieno, Head of Department | Email: OOthieno@eachq.org | Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100