

EAC@15:

We are on course,
but let's do more

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Why better logistics is critical
for Africa's growth

IN FOCUS:

Interest growing in region's
upstream petroleum sector

TRAVEL & TOURISM:

East Africa: a true single
tourist destination



THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE. ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

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**15 YEARS LATER:
EAC still going strong**

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Only Elephants Should Wear Ivory

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FROM THE SG

Changing towards efficiency and effectiveness



In 2013, The EAC Heads of State launched a System to facilitate Customs Connectivity in our Region. In February this year, they launched a Telepresence Video Conferencing System for the Community. What I said in 2013 is as true for the system they launched then, as the one they launched this year.

Our Heads of State did not launch a piece of technology. After all, technological advances in the last few years are allowing major neuro-surgery by doctors to be performed thousands of kilometers from their patients. These advances allow humanity to explore the outer regions of our Universe.

No, what they launched then, and what they launched this year, is not technology- it is a new way of doing business. It is about accelerating the East African integration agenda, through faster, smarter, more cost effective, methods. It is about a mindset for the future.

And, our accelerated integration demands of us a mindset change. The demands on time and resources for integration will inevitably increase. We must learn to do more with less - less time, less money.

For example, The EAC Organs and Institutions, and Partner States hold approximately 800 meetings and consultations annually, at an estimated cost of US\$ 12 million.


The demands for consultations will only increase as we integrate more. Through the use of this and other technologies, a 30% reduction in the physical meetings would lead to annual savings of US\$ 3.6 million. I am convinced we can do even better than just 30%.

Of course the 12 million does not include on time wasted and delays simply traveling from place to place given the inefficiencies and challenges of infrastructure in our region. Neither does it include the cost of resources not optimally utilized when meetings are postponed due to difficulties of travel, and critical decisions not taken and/or delayed.

This needs to change. However, for change to happen, we must all have a view and a determination to do better, more efficiently, with less resources.

So what the EAC Heads of State launched in February is not technology - but a mindset Change.

I thank the Council of Ministers for accepting to take leadership in implementing the Change towards efficiency and effectiveness.

I thank our Partner, TradeMark East Africa, whose financial support made the acquisition of the technology possible. 

Dr. Richard Sezibera
Ambassador,
Secretary General



H.E. Joachim Gauck visits EAC Headquarters

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany His Excellency Joachim Gauck expressed his extreme happiness being at the EAC Headquarters premises, a building he described as “where the commitment to peace and freedom, to democracy and the rule of law, and to human dignity and humanity has found a home”.

During his working visit to the EAC Headquarters, the President cautioned the EAC to guard against setbacks, skepticism, self-doubt, and public criticism that could derail the integration process and urged the EAC Partner States to borrow a leaf from the European Union’s (EU) book, saying several areas of the two blocs were in common.

The German President called on the EAC Partner States to consider focusing on youth who were beneficiaries of most of the initiatives and decisions being made today. However, he cautioned the youth that alliance of their countries though good, the process would take time and effort, for solutions had to be discussed, negotiated and achieved over and over.

He said conflicts between countries ought to be resolved peacefully and that reliable rules for dealing with each other on the international level ought to be in place. “Human rights violations must not be tolerated. And those who violate human rights must be held to account,” he said, stressing that human rights belonged to every person, regardless of origin, religion, or social or material status.

H.E Gauck held private joint discussions with the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Sezibera, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon Daniel Kidega; His Lordship the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebutja; and the Executive and senior staff of the Secretariat and Organs of the Community. 🇰🇪



Rt. Hon Kidega elected Speaker of EALA

On 19 December 2014, Rt. Hon Dan Fred Kidega became the fourth Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

Rt. Hon Kidega, 41, is serving as a Member of Parliament of East African Legislative Assembly for a second stint having been a Member in the 2nd EALA (2007-2012).

He has prior, been a Member of Parliament in Uganda for a period of five (5) years (2001-2006) representing the youth. Rt. Hon Kidega has been active in the National Resistance Movement (NRM) – Uganda politics and was a member of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni’s national campaign taskforce in 2001, and the Party’s National Executive Committee (NEC) member.

Rt. Hon Kidega has also worked as a Private Secretary to the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. Prior to joining legislative work, he was a youth leader at different levels; including being Chairman of the National Youth Council (NYC), National Representative to the Commonwealth Youth Forum (African Region). Rt. Hon Kidega is remembered in his days in school as a strong student activist.

The Speaker is an entrepreneur and has been engaged in the struggle against HIV/AIDS and Women Empowerment in Uganda.

In his acceptance speech, Rt. Hon. Kidega pledged to uphold the dignity of the House at all times and to apply the Rules without fear or favour. “ I have no doubt we shall deliver. I will pick up from where my predecessors left and continue to promote the good ideals of our mandate of widening and deepening the integration process. In doing so, I will give the majority their way but respect and protect the rights of the minorities at all times” Rt. Hon Kidega said. 🇰🇪



EAC-US Trade Investments strengthened

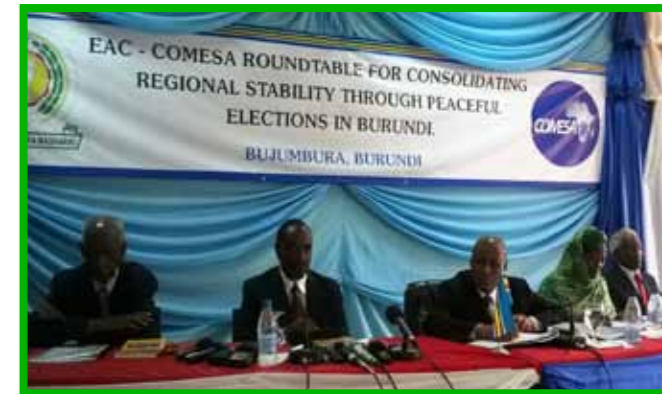
Ministers from the East African Community (EAC) have signed a Cooperation Agreement on Trade Facilitation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) with the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Michael Froman.

The Cooperation Agreement will increase trade-related capacity in the East African region, as well as deepen the economic ties between the EAC and the U.S. This partnership will build on to the EAC’s work on customs reforms, which have already resulted in substantial reductions in the time and costs of moving goods across borders within the EAC Partner States.

While a majority of the region’s people are involved in agricultural production or processing, the export potential of these products are currently limited. With this new Agreement in place, the EAC can now meet international standards by bringing in U.S. technological expertise to fully implement the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, thus helping EAC Partner States to increase food security and create additional export opportunities for products produced in the region.

By training East African standard officials and developing electronic systems on new proposed technical regulations, EAC Partner States will also increase their ability to meet international quality and safety standards by improving implementation of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Tremendous efforts and reforms have been taken to facilitate trade in the region, including improving customs procedures, enforcement and modernization as well as technical standards and regulations. Together with the action plans on SPS and TBT, it is anticipated that important benefits will be achieved through this cooperation. 🇰🇪



COMESA - EAC in support of peaceful Elections in Burundi

The East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have jointly launched Round-Tables for Consolidating Regional Stability through Peaceful Elections in the Republic of Burundi.

Themed Peaceful Elections in Burundi for Regional Integration, the COMESA-EAC Roundtables are joint dialogue initiatives/activities geared towards promoting a peaceful environment for elections, prevent elections-related violent conflict and support a smooth transition during and after the 2015 elections in Burundi.

The Round-Tables are in response to the Government of Burundi’s request to the East African Community and COMESA to send a long term Observer Mission to the country. It is in this regard that both COMESA and EAC intend to engage with the people of Burundi through a series of activities including Roundtables Dialogues geared towards supporting peaceful elections in Burundi in 2015

The EAC-COMESA Roundtables initiative has gathered representatives from Government, Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations, Religious Leaders, Media, Youth Groups, Women and Children. Eminent Persons from around the African Continent will have an opportunity to share experiences from their own jurisdictions.

The dialogue is an open forum for free discussion to participants. Some of the eminent persons taking part in the Roundtables are: Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, Former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda and now a member of the African Union Panel of the Wise; Justice Joseph Warioba, Former Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania; Amb. Bethuel Kiplagat, Former Senior Diplomat and Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; and Hon. Amanywa Mushenga, Former Secretary General of the East African Community. 🇰🇪



Climate Smart Agriculture: Why the EAC is interested

AGNES ASIIMWE

The East African sub-region is among the most vulnerable regions to climate change in the world. Rural livelihoods in the region are particularly vulnerable because of high dependence on rain-fed agriculture. Developing the resilience of agricultural systems to adverse weather events and climate change is fundamental to achieving food security in the region.

There is sufficient evidence that practices such as conservation agriculture (CA) and other climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices for example agroforestry and integrated pest management, are some of the promising options that, over time can sustainably increase the productivity of smallholder farmers.

These CSA systems are however not widely used in East Africa partly because there is limited awareness, capacity, knowledge and policy support for the widespread use of the technologies.

The concept of Climate Smart Agriculture, initiated by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) addresses the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change, and with the objective to increase agricultural

productivity, adapt and build resilience of agricultural and food security systems to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

The EAC together with COMESA and SADC are implementing a programme on climate change to bring significant livelihood and food security benefits to at least 1.2 million small-scale farmers through the application of well-tested, Climate Smart Agriculture that combines crop production with agro-forestry and livestock management.

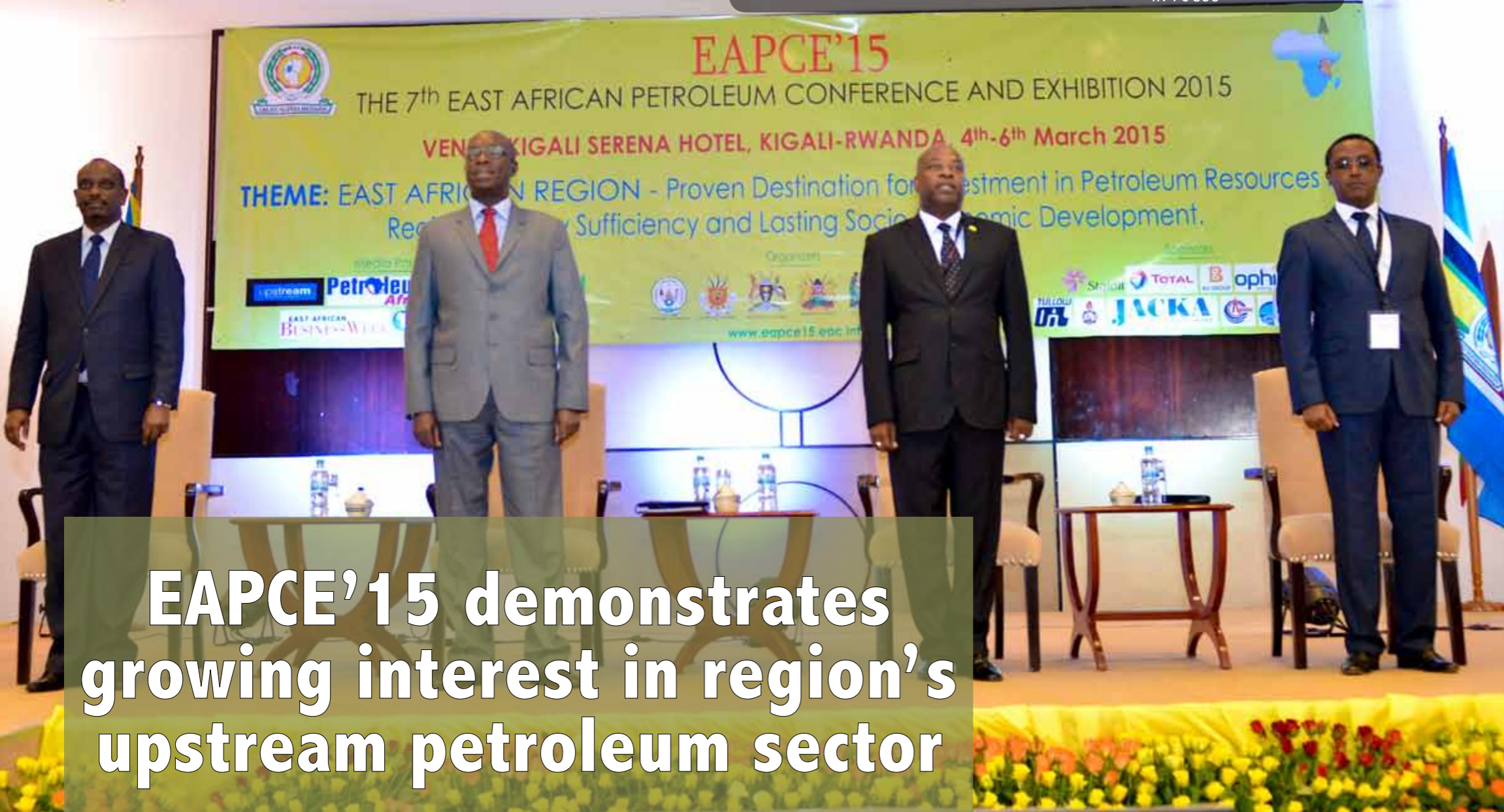
In 2010 these three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) agreed to jointly implement a Climate Change programme covering 26 African countries.

Regional efforts underway to support climate-smart agriculture include the Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance, which aims to help 25 million farming households across Africa practice climate smart agriculture by 2025 as agreed by the first Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture in March 2014 in Lusaka, Zambia. 

Agnes is a Communications Officer with the Department of Environment at the EAC Secretariat



**GLOBAL WARMING IS UPON US
ACT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**



EAPCE'15 demonstrates growing interest in region's upstream petroleum sector

PETER KINUTHIA & THE COMMUNITY TEAM

The 7th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2015 (EAPCE'15) opened its doors on the 4th March, 2015 at the Kigali Serena Hotel ushering in three days of discussions on matters upstream petroleum. The Conference attracted 640 participants drawn from government, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders from the world over.

The importance the EAC Partner States have attached to this conference as an avenue of promoting the region for investment in the petroleum sector was evident in their participation and more so by the country presentations. One of the highlights of the Conference, country presentations showcase each Partner State's petroleum potential and the opportunities for investment in the sector.

Partner States put their best foot forward and as they made their case among investors with a realistic chance of securing investments or initiating discussions that could

lead to some. The Republic of Uganda took the opportunity to announce her first competitive licensing round with a statement from the Government.

EAPCE'15 attracted Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Senior Executives of international oil and service companies who found it necessary to come in person to participate in the conference. The country rooms provided for Partner States became a beehive of activities as companies sought appointments with senior government officials to establish contact and further discuss investment opportunities.

Tellingly it was the interest by East Africans that was most evident. When EAPCE'15 was announced with a registration fee of US\$ 500 for East African citizens, many were skeptical, noting that no citizen of the region would dig that deep into their pocket to attend a conference. They were wrong. East Africans turned up in large numbers. The interest of

East Africans in the development of the emerging upstream petroleum industry is very encouraging as their participation is critical for the success of the industry.

Participation at the East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition is one way of bringing East Africans into discussion with their governments and other stakeholders in the petroleum industry. One of the objectives of EAPCE is to accord East Africans that opportunity. The local content session, having attracted a lot of interest from East Africans, highlighted emerging issues including the frameworks that Partner States are putting in place to enable East Africans to play a more critical role in the industry by providing relevant services and developing capacity to undertake more services.

Even as ordinary East Africans demonstrated interest by attending the conference, players in the oil industry were impressed by the level of understanding that East Africans working in the sector now have. Majority of the technical presentations made at EAPCE'15 were by East Africans

working in the sector, who showed in-depth understanding of a wide spectrum of issues in the industry through their well researched and articulately presented papers.

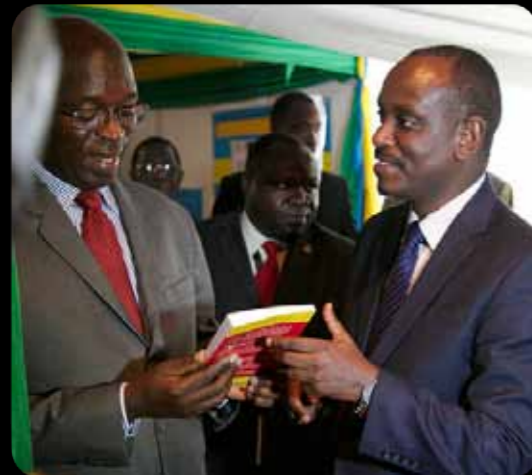
It is noteworthy that papers at EAPCE have since 2011 been sought through a competitive call for papers which are evaluated by a technical committee before they are accepted for presentation. Although a lot of capacity is still required, it is gratifying that the available capacity is well horned.

The EAC is keen to develop requisite capacities in the sector by encouraging young people to choose careers in the sector. The Conference sponsors two university students from each Partner State to attend the conference and present technical posters. The posters are evaluated by a technical committee comprising of academia, government and industry. In an industry that is male dominated, it was gratifying that two of the top three students at EAPCE'15 were female.

When the East African Petroleum Conferences started in 2003, there was limited information on the region's petroleum potential and little exploration activity. The region was perceived as a frontier with the only discoveries at the time being natural gas in Songo Songo and Mnazi Bay in Tanzania. There was little interest both for the region and the conference, which only attracted 150 participants.

Things changed dramatically after the second conference held in Entebbe in 2005 with the discovery of oil in the Albertine Graben in Uganda in 2006. By the third conference in Arusha in 2007, the number of participants had grown to over 500 and interest in the region was growing. During the fourth edition of the conference in Mombasa in 2009, interest in the conference had grown extensively, rendering it necessary to introduce parallel sessions - a feature the conference has maintained since. It was also during the Mombasa conference that a significant interest in exhibition was realized, so much that it was made a fully-fledged component in the subsequent conferences. The name was then officially changed from East African Petroleum Conference (EAPC) to East African Petroleum Conference & Exhibition (EAPCE).

EAPCE'15 closed its doors on 6 March 2015, after three days of discussions on the theme, *"East African Region - Proven Destination for investment in petroleum resources for regional energy sufficiency and lasting socio-economic development"*. It was clear that there is a sense of anticipation as the region prepares to move from exploration to commercialization of the discovered resources. ►►



► One production license has been awarded in Uganda and others are in the pipeline. Commencement of the development of a refinery in Uganda is in sight. Although the refinery is in Uganda, it is a regional PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) project in which other EAC Partner States' governments will own a stake. Associated infrastructure to support the refinery including pipeline networks and storage facilities paint an encouraging picture. The near completion of the Mtwara-Dar es Salaam gas pipeline comes as a welcome sign that the region is well on its way to utilizing its resources with a priority to the domestic market over export. The delivery of gas in Dar es Salaam will boost power generation at Kinyerezi power stations to significantly raise the contribution of natural gas, which is a clean and reliable source, to the energy mix.

The conference helped to demonstrate to stakeholders that the realization of the full value chain of the petroleum industry is costly and painstaking. This reality check is important to ensure that right measures are taken, policies, institutions and legal frameworks are put in place to support the industry. The policy, legal, institutional and regulatory framework under which the discoveries were made was designed for the exploration phase since the region's focus was on exploration. Following the discoveries, there is need for review and restructuring to support commercialization of the resources. This process, by its nature, is time consuming.

Although there has been much excitement in the region about discoveries made, EAPCE'15 reminded the region that only a small part of the potential basins have been explored. It is still relevant to promote the region for exploration. More data and information on the region's sedimentary basins is now available and the discoveries have contributed to improving the perception of risk in the region. The Partner States are, therefore, embracing competitive licensing of their exploration blocks.

The EAPCE is a suitable launching pad for a licensing round that Partner States intend to use. Uganda has tested the waters by using EAPCE'15 to announce her first competitive licensing round. The bids will attest to its effectiveness.

EAPCE'15 demonstrated growing interest in the region's upstream petroleum sector. It is an accumulation of step-wise contributions made by preceding EAPCE conferences.

EAPCE'15 passes the baton to EAPCE'17 to further build on these experiences. 🇰🇪

Peter is a Senior Energy Officer at the EAC Secretariat

Sector Highlights:

6.5 Billion Barrels

Commercial petroleum reserves in Uganda

600 Million Barrels

Commercial petroleum reserves in Kenya

53 Trillion Cubic Feet (tcf)

Natural Gas reserves in Tanzania

Licensing Round

Uganda announces First Licensing Round at EAPCE'15

Regional PPP Project

Framework in place allowing Partner States to own stake in Refinery in Uganda

EAPCE'15 Highlights:

640

Delegates from East Africa & around the world

52

Technical Presentations

10

Poster Presentations

30

Regional & International Exhibitors



East Africa Long Distance Runners & Gold Medals

Put “East African running” into a search engine and you’ll get thousands of results exploring the question of what makes these long distance runners so good.

Everyone is searching for the secret explanation so what does the research evidence point to? There is not one simple answer but here are my thoughts.

In athletics terms many people associate East Africa with Kenyan and Ethiopian distance running. Intriguingly, the majority of these runners come from three mountainous districts beside the Rift Valley: Nandi in Kenya, the most successful district, and Arsi and Shewa in Ethiopia.

Some people say that since these runners and their forebears live and train at altitude, they’re bound to be good. “Altitude natives”, through long-term exposure combined with endurance training, have increased red blood cells, which is one neat explanation of their excellence in endurance events.

However, scientists highlight that any advantages of living at over 2000m are also available to those in Mexico, the Andes, and large parts of central Asia.

So why are these clusters of running excellence found in only three districts?

For me, this is where history plays its part. Bale and Sang’s prize-winning book on Kenyan running describes the influence of missionaries and the British army in promoting modern athletics.

Once this more formal type of running took root and success started to come, the tradition of distance running in the region became self-perpetuating. That is why, I think, East Africa has a running tradition and say, Mexico does not.

Do biological factors play a part?

Two convenient explanations are diet and/or “special” genes. We need not spend too long thinking about diet. Yes, a reasonably nutritious diet is needed to train hard but that is about all.

Genetics has received considerably more research attention. Some have suggested that East Africans’ genes might be predisposed to endurance events but many studies have concluded the same thing - there is, at present, no evidence of this.

My reading suggests the efficiency of an East African runner’s light and lean body could be

a significant factor.

Some reports explain how good these runners are at dipping down like boxers or Tour de France cyclists to “make the weight” i.e. deliberately losing weight before competing.

It also pays to be small and light in high temperatures since a body dissipates heat more easily - note that most Olympic venues are very hot (e.g. Beijing, Sydney, Atlanta, Barcelona, Seoul etc.).

The term “running economy” has been used in studying the lower energy use of East African runners compared to Caucasians. The main explanation researchers put

forward is that carrying a few less grams on the feet and ankles (a common feature of the East African body shape) means these runners require less energy to maintain a fast pace.

This efficiency argument makes sense, as do reports of the quality, not quantity, of their training. Tough sessions at very high heart rates are reported, which are apparently different to those used in other countries. So these runners tend to work hard and train differently.

In addition, many elite runners (about 50-70%) have run long distances in childhood to get to school: a very sound base for intense training in the future.

Economic reward

It is a cliché to talk of athletes finding a way out from poverty but picture this. You are in your mid-teens and are a good runner. In the next village someone has just won US\$ 2,500 in a minor half-marathon overseas - four times the annual salary of your parents.

You’ve seen how hard they train to achieve this and a member of your school has also won a senior championship medal to much acclaim; the medallist now supports the whole of their extended family.

You’ve already got a keen group of people to train with and people keep congratulating you on your progress. Would you give it a go?

In this environment I think talented runners are more likely to take on the commitment, leading to more chances of success, more role models, more talent scouts and increased training expertise.

Meanwhile, consider the psychology of competing against runners from East Africa. You would need to be mentally strong to counter the consistently attributed differences that I have outlined above.

Scientists have suggested that it is difficult to break the ongoing East African running stereotype; some runners of other races believe that they cannot compete with the East Africans whilst those from the region believe that they are better runners.

Of these explanations the influence of biology is hotly debated but overall the work ethic needed to succeed at the top level takes place in a social and economic milieu that, for me, is a major influence.

Intellectual Capital is key to East Africa's progress



ILLUSTRATION | JOHN NYAGAH | NATION MEDIA GROUP

MWAI KIBAKI

The journey to a cohesive and economically vibrant East African Community has been long and eventful. Enormous resources have been committed to this pursuit.

However, the intellectual capital available to the region has not been fully harnessed to deliver a stronger, wealthier and more unified regional bloc.

The term *“intellectual capital”* refers to the resources available to humankind that, once properly harnessed, determine the extent and speed of the transformation of societies.

Since its emergence in the 20th century, intellectualism as a notion has been widely debated. Noam Chomsky, in his seminal 1967 essay titled *“The Responsibility of Intellectuals,”* paints intellectuals in not very flattering terms. He described them as pawns, apologists and propagandists of state power.

More positive commentators, however, categorise intellectual capital in terms of its influence on society. One such liberal view identifies three categories of intellectuals: Loyalist intellectuals, who are primarily committed to maintaining the status quo; reformist intellectuals, keen on egging on change; and radical intellectuals, who do not fear making proposals that rub authorities the wrong way.

It can prove worthwhile to listen to the views of reformist and radical intellectuals if through them the public imagination may be nudged into action that presages change.

Integration of communities and interests, meanwhile, is imperative to progress, besides being crucial in perpetuating the survival of the human race itself.

Ironically, the tendency to pull apart among communities is as old as humankind. This tendency worsens in the face of

weak institutions that cannot protect markets or provide them room to grow.

Globally, the rationale behind the creation of synergies among participating states is the search for the greater common good of humankind. Indeed, nothing can better refute the misguided mentality that “island nations” have more potential for prosperity than a smoothly functioning regional community.

Naturally, universities, Makerere included, are abodes of excellence in which ideas germinate, in the process of creating possibilities for prosperity.

In the meantime, winnowing the available body of ideas and trawling the sea of options for the transformation of East Africa is squarely in the province of intellectuals. Between Mwalimu Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta and Milton Obote and Prof Ali Mazrui, Prof Wangari Maathai, Okot P’Bitek, Prof Mahmood Mamdani and Ngugi wa Thiong’o, we have a lot of precedents to enthuse our imagination.

In 1921, while Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda were under colonial rule, the East African Association, formerly the Young Buganda Association, was formed. Its mission was to push for Independence for all three states.

As it happened, between 1921 and 1969, the three original East African nations shared a common currency – the East African shilling. And in 1963, Makerere University became the University of East Africa, with the University of Nairobi and University of Dar es Salaam as constituent colleges. Given this history, the integration of East Africa is an intuitive process that needs little urging along.

Elsewhere, herds of wildebeest and zebras engage in an annual pilgrimage to Kenya and back to Tanzania unconstrained by travel rules or documents. The Maasai, the Kuria and the Teso crisscross Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda unperturbed by the boundaries that exist.

Thankfully, the East African Legislative Assembly is now an entity patronised by able representatives from the five member states capable of mobilising sufficient intellectual capital to foster wealth creation across the region.

The East African Community Customs Management Act, 2004, has been in place for a decade now. Surely there must be gifted persons who can now guide the automation of the remittance of revenues collected at ports of entry directly to the revenue authorities of the countries cleared goods are destined for.

Perhaps the Inter-University Council for East Africa, itself, an instrument of the East African Community, can assist in creating a reservoir of our region’s intellectual capital. At this point

I am compelled to inquire: Do any of our universities in the region have a multidisciplinary course by the name of “East African Studies”?

Lest we forget, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya were a colonial idea, each of them intended to benefit other parties, not us.

Our intellectual capital should lead the way to East Africa’s industrial development. Culture and the arts are a pet subject of intellectuals. Nevertheless, we have not repackaged our cultural resources and exploited their full potential.

It is time our intellectuals dealt conclusively with the dissonance that presently exists between ideas and action. Ignoring our intellectual capital is, in effect, locking out the dividends of full regional integration.”

It is time our intellectuals dealt conclusively with the dissonance that presently exists between ideas and action. Ignoring our intellectual capital is, in effect, locking out the dividends of full regional integration.

Though the creation of narratives that can temper thought processes at the mass level and open new vistas of possibility and action is the work of intellectuals, intellectualism for its own sake is a luxury Africa cannot afford right now.

Our intellectuals should help our region overcome artificial barriers that encourage the confinement of individual East African states in sterile pigeonholes. 🇰🇪

This article derived from the keynote lecture delivered by Mwai Kibaki, the third president of Kenya and an alumnus of Makerere University, on the occasion of the launch of the Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library, the Mwai Kibaki Endowed Chair in Economics and the East African Mwai Kibaki Centre for Leadership, Public Finance and Policy, in February 2015 at Makerere University grounds. The article first appeared in the East African Newspaper.

WE ARE ON COURSE, but let's do more

H.E JAKAYA KIKWETE

Let me state at the outset that when one looks back through the tunnel of history one clearly appreciates the momentous achievements made by the East African Community to date. A lot of progress has been made both in building the institutions of the Community and in integrating the region. No doubt the East African Community has become a very strong institution both in terms of its organizational and institutional set up and in the functioning of its various organs and institutions. With regard to the integration process, a lot of ground has been covered and successfully so.

Regional Trade

In the Charter establishing the East African Community, it was agreed that the entry point in our integration process will be the Customs Union, followed by the Common Market, later the Monetary Union and ultimately the Political Federation. The Customs Union which started in 2000 involved two things. Firstly, the free movement of goods produced in any EAC member state and secondly, a Common External Tariff. Goods are supposed to move freely across the borders of member countries without tariffs being charged and not encumbered by Non Tariff Barriers.

It is heartwarming; indeed, to note that implementation of the Customs Union which started in 2000 up to 2005 has been a success. Indeed, goods which meet the criteria of Rule of Origin have been moving across borders without paying taxes however, non tariffs barriers remain a challenge. Progress has been made but the matter has not been resolved fully yet.

These challenges notwithstanding, intra EAC trade has registered phenomenon increase in this short period of 10 to 15 years. Trade is now at 23 percent, over and above the intra African trade figure of 12 percent. There has been a 300 percent increase in the value of trade from, US\$ 2 billion in 2005 to US\$ 6 billion in 2014. These numbers, coupled with the combined EAC GDP of US\$ 110.3 billion with an average annual

rate growth, of 2.6 percent makes our region a formidable trade and economic block in Africa.

At the same time government revenues have recorded an increase year after year from 89.55 percent of the target in 2010 to 96.86 percent of the target in 2013. During the discussions on the establishment of the Customs Union, the loss of government revenues was among the leading fears. It has turned out different. One can, indeed brag, the EAC is next to none on the African continent.

We envisage more increased revenues when the Single Customs Territory becomes fully operational in the near future. So far, the piloting exercises are progressing well in all member states. Indeed, it has proven helpful in reducing encumbrances to importers and in discouraging dumping and diversion of transit goods. Ultimately, it will be an effective tool of promoting trade and curbing revenue loss to governments.

Non Tariff Barriers

It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to ensure that all remaining non-tariff barriers to trade are removed in the East African region. We all admit that we have done very well in eliminating tariff related barriers, we must resolve to do away with the remaining non-tariff barriers.

Commendable work has been and continues to be done to address the transport related ones such as road blocks, weigh bridges and other check points on the roads as well as customs red-tape at ports and exit points.

The progress made so far, at the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam and, on the Northern Corridor with regard to road blocks shows that it is possible to eliminate these non-tariff barriers. Measures are being taken in earnest to reduce road blocks on the Tanzania side of the Central Corridor. I am sure in the next few months we will notice a huge improvement.



I am happy to inform our readers that Police check points have been reduced from 15 points to 6 point. Our aim to reduce them to none except when need arises. Tanzania Revenue Authority checks from 3 to 0. Weighbridges have remained 8 but our plan is to reduce them to 3. We are introducing weigh-in-motion technology. One is already done at Vigwaza, two are on their way for Manyoni and Nyakahura.

With these improvements alone, for a container to move from the port of Dar es Salaam to Kigali takes 3 days from the previous 8 days. It takes three and a half days to Bujumbura from the previous 8 days.

I pledged during the 16th Summit that during my time as a Chair of the EAC I will give due attention to elimination of Non Tariff Barriers in the East African Community. I intend to follow up on this pledge. We must make the EAC region the best place to do business.

Regional Infrastructure

We must do everything within our power to reduce infrastructure related costs at the shortest possible time. These are responsible, in a big way, to the high cost of doing business in our region. It is estimated that, cost of transport in our region are 4 to 5 times higher compared to the developed countries. It is estimated that it accounts for about 30 to 40 percent of the

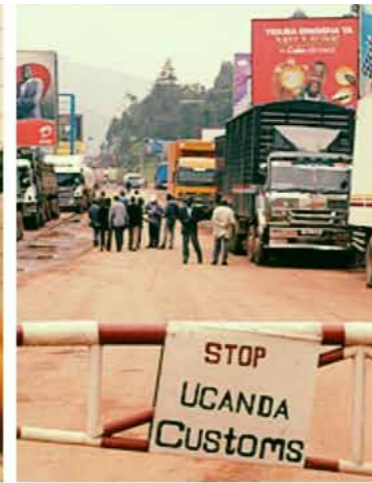
price of goods in the landlocked countries. Investing in better and efficient ports, railways, roads, aviation services, energy and telecommunication are things we must continue to do.

The 2nd EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure Development and Financing held in Nairobi in November, 2012, we undertook to close the infrastructure gap by 2020. I note with a deep sense of satisfaction, the ongoing work, both in the Northern Corridor and the Central Corridor in this regard.

Common Market

As stipulated in the Treaty establishing the East African Community, the Common Market is the next stage after the Customs Union. As you may recall, the Common Market Protocol was signed in 2009 and came into force in 2010. This Common Market is what answers the very question about movement of people, capital and services within the region.

The feedback from the EAC Common Market Score Card 2014 shows that progress is not good enough. For example, with regard to the Free Movement of Services, 63 measures out of 500 key sectoral laws and regulations of Partner States were identified to be inconsistent with the Common Market Protocol. 73 percent of these are exclusively related to professional services. ▶▶



►► With regard to movement of goods, a lot has been done apart from non-tariff barriers related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

In terms of movement of capital, only 2 out of 20 capital operations are free of restrictions in all Partner States. These two are related to external borrowing and repatriation of proceeds from sale of assets.

The score card reminds us that Partner States are behind schedule in reviewing and amending national laws in accordance with the Common Market Protocol. It impedes progress in the implementation of the Protocol and the East African integration process.

We agreed at the recent Nairobi Summit that we should do more in our respective member states on the implementation of the findings and recommendations of the score-card.

I appreciate the fact that there are Bills before the East African Legislative Assembly that will help advance the implementation of the Common Market. These include the EAC Cross Border Legal Practice Bill (2014); the EAC Electronic Transactions Bill 2014; and the EAC Competition (Amendment) Bill (2015).

Peace, Security and Stability

Ours is a regional integration undertaking derived from historical lessons of the defunct East African Community (1967 – 1977), also, from the gains made by the Tripartite Commission on East African Cooperation (1996-1999). We all know what contributed to the demise of the previous EAC. It is not my intension to dwell on the narration or the reasons and circumstances of its collapse.

When conceiving the new Community; we all agreed that we should not repeat the mistakes of history, neither be prisoners of it. We also agreed to move cautiously making every step we take the building block of the next. Indeed, we started with the Tripartite Commission on East African Cooperation in 1996 and later in 1999 graduated into the East African Community.

The principle of growth by stages is well enshrined in the Treaty establishing the East African Community. We have remained faithful to this principle. We started as 3 members we are now 5, with provision for others to join if they meet the terms and conditions. Among the terms include sharing a common border with a member of the East African Community and subscribing to the ideals of the East African Community. So far, South Sudan and Somalia have applied to join the East

African Community.

Subscribing to the ideals of the democracy, good governance, human rights and rule of law are critical tenets of the East African Community. We all agree that better governed member states contribute to a prosperous region. It is also true that badly governed member states frustrate the integration process. It impedes trade, cooperation, as well as movement of people, goods, services and capital. Moreover, it deters investment and makes the region an unfavourable destination for investment and trade.

Peace, security and stability must and should continue to be high on our agenda. I am happy our region is peaceful, secure and stable. Democratic values and institutions continue to take root and shape in our countries. This year we will be having elections in Burundi, and a Referendum on proposed Constitution and General Elections in Tanzania.

The people of East Africa should join hands in wishing these two countries success in these important undertakings. Let the elections be credible, free and fair which abide and respect the constitutions and the relevant laws of these countries. Let them come out of these processes, peaceful and united as a nation and a people.

Our region is not without security challenges. The fact that we are surrounded by other countries and regions in conflict, poses a security challenge to our region. Therefore, we cannot avoid keeping our eyes on them and being of assistance when need arises. It is in this regard, our region is involved in the DRC, South Sudan and Somalia. We must continue to assist these nations. It is in our best interest to do so since all of them are potential future members of the Community.

Terrorism and transnational crimes are security challenges facing our region which require a regional response for effective control and success. I am glad that efforts are ongoing at regional level to address these challenges. There is closer cooperation between the defense and security organs of our respective countries. They share intelligence and undertake joint or coordinated actions. This is very much welcome and we should encourage it. It is important that our region remains seized with the peace and security agenda, for it determines the sustainability and future of the EAC.

Role of EALA

The East African legislative Assembly is one of the important pillars of our Community. It is the Organ that carries the voice and aspirations of our people. This is where people's interests are raised, aggregated and translated into laws. ►►

▶▶ Since ours is a people centred integration, then the Assembly is at the heart of our integration endeavors.

I commend the good work being done the Assembly. The Bills passed by the House give life and meaning to our integration aspirations. It could not be possible for the EAC to achieve so much within this short period of its existence or without the good work being done by the EALA. Many of the Bills passed by EALA and Resolutions adopted have contributed immensely towards advancing the EAC integration process.

The Assembly must continue to be the people's Assembly and their first point of call. The Assembly must continue to deliberate on issues of concern to the people of East Africa and not otherwise. They must give prominence to issues which are regional in character rather than trivial national interests. We must see that East Africaness spirit in the Assembly. I appreciate the efforts of the Assembly in reaching out to National Parliaments, governments and various interest groups in the Partner States.

East Africa Court of Justice

Another historic milestone has been laid with regard to the functions of East African Court of Justice. At the 16th Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community held in Nairobi on 20th February, 2015, we adopted and signed the Protocol to operationalize the Extended Jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice.

The extended jurisdiction covers trade and investment matters, as well as issues associated with the East African Monetary Union. This is yet another important avenue for East Africans to access justice and reap more benefits from their Community.

It consolidates the integration process.

Way Forward

Integration is not a one off event. It is multifaceted. It takes time. As such, patience and understanding is absolutely important. Otherwise, we may end up making mistakes which could be avoided. We must remain steadfast and focused on deepening and widening East African integration.

Trade indicators and statistics confirm that this is happening steadily. However, we must not be complacent. In my view we need to do more in many ways. Allow me to mention two things of interest.

One, we must increase the pace of the implementation of decisions and agreements of the various organs of the Community. Recent report shows that, implementation of these decisions


and agreements stands at 75.8 percent for Kenya, Rwanda at 75.7 percent, Tanzania at 66 percent, Burundi at 56.5 percent and Uganda at 48.1 percent. At the last Summit we agreed to urge ourselves to ensure speedy implementation of the decisions we make and agreements we sign. We also applauded the idea to institutionalize mechanisms of tracking the implementation of decisions and agreements reached.

Second, we must promote ownership of the integration process by the people of East Africa. As a matter of fact, the future and sustainability of the Community very much depends upon how far we succeed in making people of East Africa feel that they benefit from the East African Community. The State of East Africa Report – 2013 by Society of International Development (SID) provides us with some important insights.

It suggests that the future of the region will depend on how we make growth inclusive and on narrowing the inequality gap within nations and in the region. Certainly, the answer lays in the deepening of integration and increasing investment and trade which have proven to be good catalysts for promoting prosperity and improving welfare of the people. Integration is the best way forward, for no one country can overcome these challenges alone.

We are all witnesses to the fact that a lot of progress has been made in our integration process. What we have been able to achieve in this short period of time is truly amazing to us and the world at large. The pace and depth of our integration process has been phenomenon. We have demonstrated to the world that integration process can actually happen in Africa. Therefore, the East African Federation and United States of Africa are not a mirage or distant dreams. They are possible and doable.

For us Tanzania, with 50 years experience of the Union between the then Tanganyika and Zanzibar, we know it is possible and doable. We believe in it, we are living it and we look forward to live as East Africans in the East Africa Federation and, ultimately, as African citizens in the United States of Africa.

Let us remain committed and steadfast in pursuit of these noble ideals. Nothing is impossible. It can be done if we all play our part. 

This article is an edited version of the 2015 State of EAC Address by H.E Jakaya Kiwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, delivered at the 5th Meeting of the 3rd Session of the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly in March 2015 in Bujumbura, Burundi.



Soroti Flying School: a forgotten center of excellence

BARRY KASHAMBO

The East African Civil Aviation Academy (EACAA) was established in Soroti, Uganda by a Treaty of Cooperation of the then East African Community in 1971 to train Pilots and Aircraft Maintenance Engineers from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. One of the major purposes for the establishment was to provide the much needed Technical Personnel for East African Airways.

Technical assistance was provided by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) through provision of training programmes, instructors, aircraft, aircraft maintenance personnel, maintenance, equipment and spares support.


The Academy operated as an Institution of EAC until the collapse of the Community in 1977 and has since been managed under the Ministry responsible for Air Transport of the Republic of Uganda. However, the Academy lacks relevant legal framework to operate as an autonomous institution and is generally still deemed an Institution of the Community.

The Academy's Vision and Mission are "To be a centre of excellence in providing training in civil aviation and related disciplines" and "To provide timely, qualitative and cost effective training in aviation" respectively.

The EACAA has been identified by the East African Community as one of the Centres of Excellence in Aviation Training in support of the development and fast growing aviation industry and integration objectives of EAC.

Despite the many challenges the Academy has experienced, the infrastructure and equipment at Soroti continues to be the best suited for the purpose of training of Pilots and Engineers in the EAC Region and beyond.

For a period of over 25 years, since inception in 1971, the Academy popularly referred to as the **Soroti Flying School** was recognized and respected as the highest rated Approved Training Organisation (ATO) on the African continent, graduating many Pilots and Engineers who have been providing significant technical expertise to the Aviation industry within East Africa and beyond.

The plea of the Aviation fraternity is to let the glory of EACAA rise and shine again!! 

The Author is the Executive Director of the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), an Institution of the EAC

15 years later, EAC still going strong

FLORIAN MUTABAZI

The East African Community integration process is in high gear. This is reflected by the encouraging progress and remarkable strides taken with regard to the implementation of the East African Customs Union, the implementation of the EAC Common Market, the signing of the East African Monetary Union Protocol and efforts in fast-tracking the process towards an East African Political Federation.

These underscore the determination of the East African leadership and citizens to develop a powerful and sustainable East African economic and political bloc.

The accession of the Republics of Burundi and Rwanda to the EAC Treaty raised the resource base of the regional bloc with exciting prospects for rapid progress towards EAC's transformation into a middle income economy by the year 2020. Indeed, the East African Community is strategically located and has the potential to become the economic hub in Eastern and Central Africa.

As EAC the turned fifteen in November last year, Florian Mutabazi, Media Centre Coordinator at the EAC Secretariat looks at some of the bloc's milestones recorded to date.

Trade, Finance & Investment

There is significant leveraging of the regional programme in the promotion of trade and investment as well as development of regional infrastructure. The Customs Union, launched in 2005, has taken on a life of its own. The Customs Union's positive impact on increased intra-EAC trade and growth of revenue is felt and shared in all Partner States. All the EAC countries have reported increased revenues since the operations of the EAC Customs Union were launched.

These developments give confidence and comfort where, in the beginning, there were expressions of fear and diffidence over the introduction of the Customs Union. Consequently, the mood was upbeat as the region proceeded to the establishment of the Common Market and now the East African Monetary Union.

Introduction of the EAC Single Customs Territory (SCT) is one of the key tangible

achievements recorded in 2014 as a result of the Customs Union. The framework for operationalization of the EAC SCT was finalized and adopted by the EAC Heads of State in November 2013, with operationalization commencing in January 2014.

According to the EAC Director General of Customs and Trade, Mr. Peter Kiguta, transformation of the EAC into a Single Customs Territory is what is required to spur liberalized trade, as goods would circulate freely throughout the territory.

To work effectively, a Single Customs Territory requires, among others, a common legal framework; circulation of goods with minimal or no border controls; harmonization of standards for goods moved through the Territory; an interconnected payment system; and collection of Customs duties at the first point of entry.

The introduction of SCT has led to a cost reduction per container from US\$ 3,375 to US\$1,731 for Kampala bound cargo and from US\$ 4,990 to US\$ 3,387 for Kigali bound cargo on average, with

Mombasa Port as the point of entry.

Intra-regional trade in the EAC rose to 17% of the total value of exports in 2013, again as a result of the signing of two protocols - Customs Union and Common Market. The average annual GDP growth rate of the region stands at 5% with each country performing within a band of 4% to 7%.

Addressing the Members of East African Legislative Assembly in Bujumbura, Burundi in March this year, Chairperson of the EAC Summit and President of United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Jakaya Kikwete, said trade was now 23% over and above intra African trade. This translates to a 300% increase in the value of trade from, US\$ 2 billion in 2005 to US\$ 6 billion in 2014.

The Head of State remarked that these numbers, coupled with the combined EAC GDP of US\$ 110.3 billion and an average annual economic rate growth of 2.6% makes the region a formidable trade and economic bloc in Africa •

Transport & Communications

In the Infrastructure sub-sector, steady progress is maintained on the East African Road Network Project, in particular the Mombasa - Katuna road (Northern Corridor) and the Dar es Salaam - Mutukula road (Central Corridor), which have been taken to the implementation stages.

The completion of the re-construction of the Arusha - Namanga - Athi River road demonstrates the commitment of the Partner States in developing regional infrastructure. Feasibility and design studies continue for the Arusha - Holili - Taveta - Voi road; and investment preparations for the Tanga - Horohoro - Malindi road.

In 2007, the East African Community established the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), a regional agency to oversee the

implementation of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) standards and recommended practices towards the enhancement of aviation safety and security in the region.

Railway lines remain a critical factor in socio-economic development the world over. The East African region has continued devoting utmost attention to the sub-sector. At their Summit held in Nairobi 2012, the EAC Heads of State gave an upper hand to plans to revamp and expand the region's railway system.

Among projects the Summit approved were the development of the Dar-es-Salaam - Tabora - Mwanza railway link and rehabilitation of the Voi - Taveta line that will link Kenya and Tanzania. Others were rehabilitation and upgrade of the Mombasa - Nairobi - Kampala railway line to Standard Gauge; construction of the Lamu - Isiolo - Moyale - Addis Ababa; Isiolo - Nadapal - Juba and Nairobi - Isiolo Standard Gauge railway lines •



Tourism & Wildlife Management

A major breakthrough for the region has been in the tourism sector with the launch of joint marketing initiatives of East Africa as a Single Tourist Destination. EAC participated for the first time in the World Travel Market (WTM) in London in November 2006 and the Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin (ITB) in Berlin in March 2007. During each visit, EAC Partner States held joint promotion of the region under a common exhibition area. Since then, the events have been held annually in London and Berlin in November and March respectively.

The launch of the EAC Single Tourist Visa in February 2014 was yet another milestone for the Community. The visa allows multiple entries into Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda for 90 days at US\$100. A holder can visit the three

countries without added costs or associated bureaucracy. While the Single Tourist Visa is currently being implemented by 3 Partner States, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi are also working towards adopting the visa. This is envisioned to provide more opportunities for tourists to explore the rich heritage, flora and fauna of the region hence multiplied effects to the regional economy.

Harmonisation of Policies and Laws in the Tourism and Wildlife Management sector has been initiated and ongoing; this shall provide a harmonised ground for operations in the sector, within the region and in the international arena.

In addition, a uniform criteria for classification of accommodation and restaurants establishments in the region is being implemented. This initiative aims to establish global standards in the hospitality industry • ▶▶





Political Federation

The People of East Africa have enjoyed close historical, political, social, economic, cultural, lingual and other ties for generations and acknowledge the necessity to move beyond economic integration to deeper integration driven by a Political Federation.

Irrespective of the individual national identities, history and diversity, the people of East Africa realize that

deeper integration would promote a common identity and deepen the spirit of eastafricanness and offer the best chance of pursuing a common destiny and survival for future generations.

Base on the historical integration between EAC Partner States, the 12th Extra Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State directed the EAC Secretariat to initiate the process of drafting a Constitution for the Political Federation and develop a roadmap on what the

Constitution making process would involve.

While efforts to fast track the Political Federation are ongoing, the EAC is implementing other strategies aimed at laying a solid foundation for the Political Federation. These strategies include implementation of the programme on Good Governance with the objective of strengthening democratic governance in the region •

Expansion of the Community

After the successful enlargement of the Community with the entry of Rwanda and Burundi in 2007, the Republic of South Sudan officially submitted her application to join the East African Community in June 2011. Subsequently, a Verification Committee from the EAC visited the Republic of South Sudan in July 2012 with the aim of establishing her level of conformity with the criteria for Admission of Foreign Countries into the East African Community as provided under Article 3 of the Treaty Establishing the EAC.

Established in 2013 by the EAC Council of Ministers, a High Level Negotiation has started the negotiations with the Republic of South Sudan on Her application. Similarly, President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit appointed a High Level Committee in March 2014 to oversee South Sudan's accession to the EAC.

The Federal Republic of Somalia officially submitted an application to join the EAC in February 2012. The EAC has established a Verification Committee and preparations by the Government of Somalia for the EAC Verification Mission are ongoing.



EAC journey raises hope for industry

BETTY MAINA

Looking at the journey that was and still is, a lot of great effort has gone into the integration process for the region. The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community was signed on November 30, 1999.

It set a vision for the eventual unification of the EAC Partner States and outlines a comprehensive system of co-operation among Partner States in trade, investments and industrial development, monetary and fiscal policy, infrastructure and services, human resources, science and technology, free movement of factors of production, agriculture and food security, environment and natural resources management, tourism and wildlife management.

The first stage of the EAC integration came with enforcement of the EAC Customs Union Protocol in January 2005 which had five years transitional period for elimination of internal tariffs.

The benefits of the Customs Union to the businesses are level playing field due to implementation of Common External Tariff against imports from third countries entering EAC, increased utilisation of production capacities due to larger EAC market that was to some extent protected by the Common External Tariff (CET) and increased market opportunities in the EAC.

✓ Economies of scale

Businesses have been able to increase their competitiveness due to economies of scale and production efficiency.

Benefits abound but challenges are in the right of residence framework in that the citizen of a Partner State can only reside in the territory of another Partner state if he/or she is engaged in economic activity and when one stays for a long time, one is not guaranteed permanent residence.

In the area of free movement of services, Partner States agreed to start with seven sectors mainly professional and business, communication, distribution, education services, financial services, tourism, travel related services and transport.

Kenya opened up its services sector since 2010 to other Partner States adopted a progressive liberalisation between 2010 and 2015.

There is a need to have strong regional law and policies governing trade in services. Manufacturers appeal to Partner States to fasten re-aligning their national laws with the Common Market Protocol in order for the region to reap full benefits.

The author is the Chief Executive of Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

◆ When?

In March 2014, the East African Community Secretariat, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched the EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project (PSSIP).

◆ Why?

PSSIP was developed to boost the modernization, regional integration of payment and settlement systems within the region as well as to strengthen harmonized legislative and regulatory financial sector; and, building capacities in the Partner States.

◆ What you need to know about EAC-PSSIP

The 23 Million USD EAC-PSSIP project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) is an integral part of the EAC Financial Sector Development and Regionalization Project's (FSDRP) higher objective of broadening and deepening the financial sector.

This came as a second major attempt to integrate the region's financial services following the integration of East African Partner States' (Kenya Uganda and Tanzania) Commercial Banks Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system; reducing cheque clearance time from 22 days to just one day.

The EAC-PSSIP project will see Burundi acquire a RTGS since it did not have one at the time (at a cost of \$USD 1.8 million). Consequently, it will be connected, together with Rwanda, to the rest of the region's payment and settlement system by end of the implementation period.

It is aimed at complementing the integration of the regional financial market infrastructure to facilitate the undertaking of cross border funds transfer in support of the economies of the region as a whole.

The project is a requirement for the development and implementation of secure, efficient, reliable and integrated payment and settlement systems to ensure efficient flow of financial transactions within the Monetary Union.

Training programmes for bank employees were carried out within the Partner States to enable them transition and adopt the new payment mode.

▶ PSSIP Structure

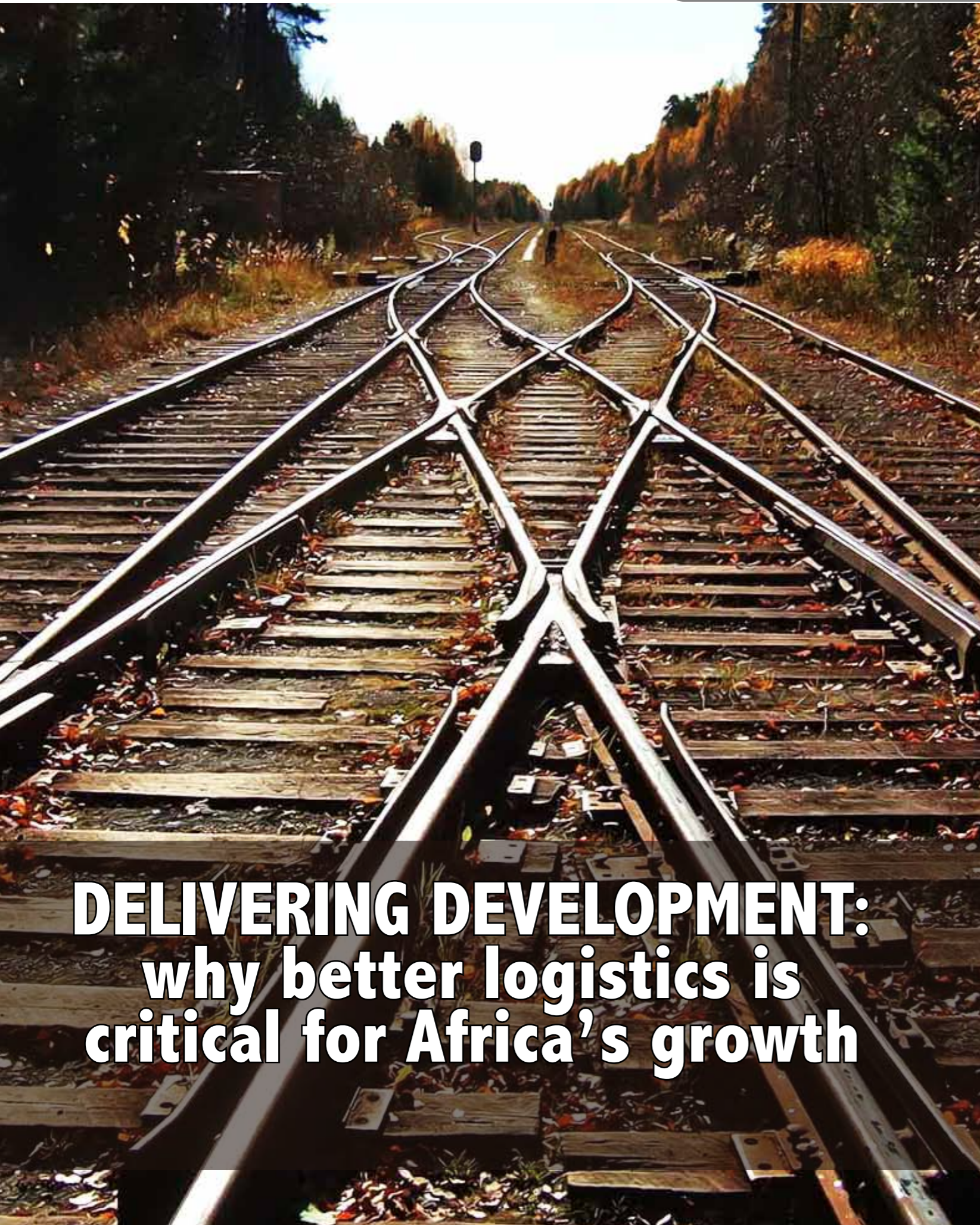
- Component 1 - Integration of Financial Market Infrastructure
- Component 2 - Harmonization of Financial Laws and Regulations
- Component 3 - Capacity Building

▶ Benefits of the EAC-PSSIP Project to East Africans

- It will enable traders receive cross-border payments seamlessly and without having to incur the cost of currency conversion.
- The project will position the region on the right road towards attaining a Monetary Union.
- By December 2016, the project will result in a well-functioning regional RTGS, a common retail payment and settlement system, a central securities depository and a core banking platform.

M-Pesa payments between Tanzania and Kenya

Vodafone M-Pesa - the mobile money transfer and payment service that has transformed the lives of millions of people in emerging markets - in March 2015 launched its first international money transfer corridor between Tanzania and Kenya. Individuals will benefit from the low-cost of M-Pesa against existing international remittance services between the two countries. M-Pesa customers from East Africa's two biggest economies can now use their mobile phones for simple, safe and secure money transfers between the two countries via an established, combined network of 180,000 agents.



DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT: why better logistics is critical for Africa's growth

FRANK MATSAERT

Three little boys in Kigali are sharing a lollipop. They lick it in turns. The lollipop is imported, so 45% of its cost is due to transport and allied costs. It might have been made in Kenya or Tanzania or even further afield, and it has travelled thousands of kilometres and several borders. So whichever of the boys bought that treat, he's paying part of the freight clearance charges, handling charges, insurance, fuel costs and the salary of the trucker who got it to the Rwandan capital.

Logistics is a critical yet easily neglected component of economic development. Investment in agriculture is futile if there is no supply chain in place to get produce to market. Essential medication is rendered ineffective if it cannot be transported in the appropriate conditions. Consumer goods cannot improve people's lives if the cost of importing them means they are too expensive for people to access. Yet in discussions of "sustainable development goals" or "poverty reduction", there is too often a tendency to focus on headline targets and forget about the mechanics of delivery.

In East Africa, transport and freight costs are among the highest in the world, with freight logistics expenditure more than 50% higher per kilometre than in Europe or the United States. This extra cost is caused by a 'logistics gap': a lack of infrastructure, technology and expertise affecting everything from road networks, to payment systems and warehousing facilities. In landlocked countries like Rwanda and Burundi, this gap is even more pronounced: transport costs there can reach as high as 75% of the value of exports.

Transit times are also high in East Africa. The 1600km journey from Mombasa (Kenya) to Kigali (Rwanda) takes on average 422 hours – nearly 18 days. Trucks must stop at two border posts and are likely to encounter 45 road blocks, each of which involves delays and costs, as well as potentially damaging the goods being transited. In contrast, a truck covering a similar distance in Europe – driving from, say, Rotterdam (The Netherlands) to Budapest (Hungary) – would be able to complete the route in less than a day.

These high costs have a significant impact on the lives of people living in the region. Transportation expenses are passed on to small businesses and consumers – indeed, the World Bank estimates that logistics costs account for 40% of consumer prices in East Africa. Concretely, that is 145 million people, many of whom are already living in severe poverty, who are paying more for food, household goods and healthcare products. Added to this are the large numbers of small business owners unable to grow their companies because of the high overheads connected with distributing or sourcing their goods.

In order for East Africa's exports to compete in the global marketplace, businesses operating in the region need to have reliable flows of inventories such as raw materials or finished goods, without which businesses need to carry higher levels of inventory to deal with uncertainty. This raises costs, erodes efficiency and results in poor competitiveness and high prices. In contrast, firms that can rely on efficient logistics, modern supply chains and just-in-time delivery systems are more

efficient and cash generative and, therefore, more competitive and more readily integrated into regional and international global supply chains.

This applies just as much to international companies operating in the region as to local players. DHL, for example, has over 3300 service points across Africa – a network which it has developed by forming partnerships with small businesses, fuel retailers and supermarkets. The company has grown a successful business in Africa by adapting to local circumstances: the informal economy, rural population and large number of SMEs. Bolloré Africa Logistics also has a significant presence on the continent, investing in modernising ports in both West and East Africa to equip them to handle larger vessels.

For many companies, however, the prospect of entering a market with so many challenges is daunting. Since 2008, freight volumes through East Africa's major ports, Mombasa and Dar es Salaam, have grown at 8% and 13% per annum respectively. With this growth come major transport and logistics investment opportunities, to handle the increased freight volumes. But in order to overcome the logistics gap in Africa, we need to take an innovative approach that draws on existing private sector expertise.

It is innovation which has driven improvements in global logistics over the past decades. Electronic payment systems, real-time tracking software, shared services for SMEs and improvements to fleet vehicles are all ways in which the costs – in both time and money – of transporting goods can be reduced. Tapping into this innovation and encouraging businesses to invest in pioneering solutions to logistics challenges will have a major impact on the lives of people across Africa, and will make delivering other development goals – like healthcare and food security – much easier.

One example of an innovative approach to support international entrants to Africa is the Logistics Innovation for Trade Fund (LIFT). LIFT aims to reduce the risk of investment by providing a matching grant to international/local private sector partnerships with transformative technologies or improved practice that will have a significant impact on the efficiency of the transport and logistics sector across East Africa. It will co-invest with the private sector in projects that may be too risky to undertake without such support – with the goal of challenging business to develop and test new ideas to reduce the cost of transports and logistics.

TradeMark East Africa has held several briefing sessions with the East African and European logistics leaders on the Logistics Innovation for Trade Fund (LIFT) platform. These meetings brought together key players in the industry – both those interested in entering the region and those already active, including heads of major corporations – to discuss pushing the boundaries of innovation in new directions and improving transport and logistics efficiencies to and from the EAC. 🇪🇺

Frank Matsaert is the Chief Executive Officer of TradeMark East Africa



YOUTH

YOUTH

The EAC I want: One youth's perspective

SALMA ALI NASSIR

Regional Integration is not a new phenomenon, communication and trade existed way back in the ancient times, during the famous travels of Marco Polo several centuries ago, when economic integration was first experienced. Since then through trade, production factors movement and communication of economically useful knowledge and technology has been generally rising, making global economic integration inevitable.

The recent developments by the East African Community (EAC) to integrate the regional economy could not have come at the right time. As technology accelerates, we now exist in highly integrated global, inter-regional economies.

There are economic as well as political reasons why nations pursue economic and political integration. The IMF report on the Capital Markets in East Africa explains; whereas foreign investors' transactions occupy fair amounts of total turnovers, available statistics, though the coverage is restricted, indi-

cate that non-resident holdings of securities stand at substantially low levels in the EAC compared to the aggregate of sub-Saharan Africa.

Factors driving the regional integration

Generally there are three fundamental factors that have influenced economic integration in its entire dimension in the region; through human migration, trade in goods and services and finally through movement of capital and integration of financial markets.

Declining communication costs and technology are transforming the arena for regional trade in services. Improved technology of transportation and communication have reduced the costs of transporting goods, services and factors of production and of communicating economically useful knowledge and technology. The tastes of individuals and societies have generally, regionally and universally

avored taking advantage of the opportunities provided by declining costs of transportation and communication through increasing economic integration. Public policies have also influenced significantly the character and pace of economic integration although not always in the direction of economic integration

Making integration process a success

All member states should agree on a formula for sharing joint revenues (custom duties, licensing) as this strengthens economic trust and in the long run political unity. The ability to make joint decisions based on economic and political interests of all Partner States as stakeholders is key to the success of regional integration efforts.

There must be a willingness to develop a coherent policy system that supports permanent development of economic unions in the interest of all stakeholder states. Ensure implementation of these policies - in order to speed up the process of economic and political unification.

Engaging citizens in EAC Integration process

The EAC has established different forums through which various members of society are given an opportunity to actively participate in the integration process.

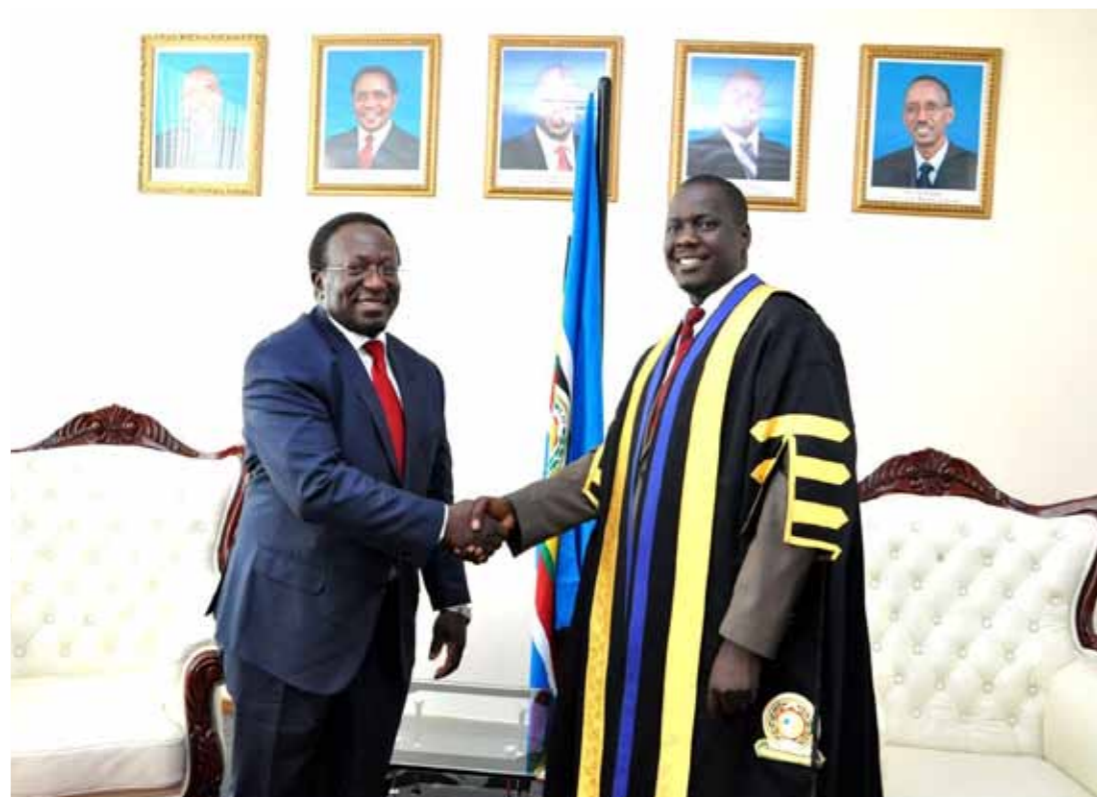
The youth for instance actively participate through social media such as Facebook, twitter and various blogs, and various programmes such as the Youth Ambassadors programme and the university Students' Debate.

Civic engagement right from the grassroots should be encouraged through community and religious leaders as well as institutions of higher learning. 🇰🇪

Salma is a Travel Manager at Alive Safaris Limited in Entebbe, Uganda she is also a Freelance Journalist for the Informer East Africa.



TOGETHER WE STAND: Flags at the EAC Headquarters fly at half mast in solidarity with our Kenyan brothers and sisters over the contemptible terrorist attack at Garissa University College.



WELCOME BACK WAZIRI: EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon. Dan Kidega congratulates Tanzania Minister of EAC Affairs, Hon. Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe, after he was sworn in as an Ex-Officio Member of EALA.



KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY: (L-R) EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera; Republican Senator Mike Rounds and EAC Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Enos Bukuku share a light moment during a visit by a Congressional Delegation from the United States to the EAC Headquarters.



THANK YOU: Vice President of the Judges and Magistrates Vetting Board, Ms. Roseline Odode presents the Board's Annual Report to EACJ Judge President, Hon. Justice Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja.

SMILEY FACES: Former EAC Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Kigeyo Cheluget (c) spares a moment for the camera with EAC Staff Neema Mnzava (l) and Olive Joy Tibenderana (r).



MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



FEEL
THE SOFT
GRASS
ON YOUR BARE FEET

SMELL
THE FRESH RAIN
ON A COOL MORNING

ONE VISA
THREE DESTINATIONS
RWANDA | UGANDA | KENYA



NATIONAL PARKS



EXPLORE E. AFRICA

HIGHEST MOUNTAIN PEAKS

ELEVATION

M	FT
5,895	19,340
5,199	17,057
5,109	16,795
4,321	14,178



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Ebola fears ripple across continent to hurt East African tourism

EDITH HONAN

East Africa's Serengeti and Maasai Mara safari parks are as far if not further from the Ebola outbreak in the west of the continent than much of Europe which supplies the tourists, but you'd hardly guess that from the slump in bookings.

In Tanzania and Kenya, tour operators say tented camps and luxury lodges where lion and elephant saunter past are surviving on visitors who have not yet written off the whole continent because of an outbreak that struck 5,000 km away.

"The probability of dying from a tree falling on your head is probably higher than going on a safari in the Serengeti and catching Ebola," said John Corse of Nomad Tanzania, one of whose camps overlooks plains where wildebeest make the annual Great Migration, often described as a natural Wonder of the World.

Tanzania - which relies heavily on tourist dollars from visits to game reserves, Mount Kilimanjaro or Indian Ocean beaches - was aiming for a record year to top the more than 1 million visitors who came in 2013. That now looks a pipedream.

The Hotels Association of Tanzania, representing 195 sites nationwide, said business is down 30 to 40 percent on the year and advanced bookings, mostly for 2015, are 50 percent lower.

Next door Kenya has been hurt too. Its tourism industry was already reeling from a spate of attacks by Islamists, including 2013's attack on the upscale Westgate mall and more recent incidents on the coast. Ebola added to the pain, making dollars more scarce in the foreign exchange market and weakening the shilling.

Safaris are vital to both nations, whose other main exports are agricultural produce, because they tend to draw wealthier visitors, ready to splash out on luxuries, like sundowners after a game drive at sites kilometers from the next settlement.

"A safari holiday behaves like a form of luxury goods: people consume more of it when they're feeling safe and wealthy," said Corse, whose packages combining a week or so in the bush followed by a few days on Zanzibar's beaches cost \$8,000 to \$15,000 a person.

Ebola-Free so far

Particularly galling to some is that neither Kenya nor Tanzania, nor indeed any other East African nation, has had a single case of the Ebola virus, which has killed thousands, the vast majority in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea on the opposite side of the continent.

The United States and Spain, meanwhile, have had cases of infection on their soil and also deaths from the disease. Madrid stands less than 4,000 km from Liberia's capital Monrovia, a shorter distance than the game reserves of Kenya and Tanzania.

Several East African nations have imposed restrictions on travelers coming from afflicted areas.

Kenya Airways halted flights in August 2014 to Monrovia and Freetown after Kenya was declared a "high-risk" zone because Nairobi is one of Africa's transport hubs. Some European airlines still fly to afflicted nations of West Africa.

When nine Kenyans returned to Nairobi from Liberia in October 2014, they were isolated for hours and tested before being allowed to go home, even though they showed no fever or other Ebola symptoms.

"Our problems started with insecurity long before Ebola became an issue, but Ebola of course has worsened it," said Sam Ikwaye of the Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers, referring to 2013's deadly attack by Islamist gunmen on a Nairobi shopping mall followed by other assaults elsewhere.

"Our members have reported that tourists are very concerned and have kept asking and seeking assurances that Kenya is Ebola-free," he said.

The Serena Hotels, which runs high-end safari lodges and beach resorts in East Africa, said bookings were down by as much as 30 percent in 2014, from the last good year of 2012. In 2013, worries about election violence in Kenya, which proved unfounded, also deterred visitors.

Debunking Rumors

Problems for Kenya and Tanzania have knock-on effects on nearby Uganda and Rwanda, which are also part of the East African Community bloc.

Rwanda, whose tourist industry in particular relies on expensive treks to see rare mountain gorillas, denied entry to travelers who had been to the three West African nations in the previous 22 days. Ebola's incubation period is three weeks.



Tanzania, where most visitors come from Britain, Germany, the United States and Italy, launched a website in early November to educate visitors about Ebola and debunk any rumors.

"We sympathize with our brothers and sisters in West Africa. But we don't have it and we are doing everything we can to ensure Tanzania remains Ebola-free," said Lathifa Sykes, chief executive of the Hotels Association of Tanzania.

"Africa is not one country. Africa is a continent," she said, voicing the frustrations of many Africans who say people in the West often forget Africa's diversity and vast size.

Still, not all tourists are staying away. At the Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort, near Mombasa, 44-year-old Wilbur April from London shrugged off the worries.

"Of course we asked about Kenya before we came because there was bad publicity about the country back home and we wanted to be sure," he said from his sun-bed sipping a glass of red wine.

"Recently it was terrorism," he said. "Now it is Ebola, and it is not even near Kenya." 🇰🇪

Additional reporting by Joseph Akwiri in Mombasa, Elias Biryabarema in Kampala, Clement Uwiringiyimana in Kigali; this article was first published by www.reuters.com

Treasures of East Africa

DAMARIS WANBUI NYAGA

The East African Community member states (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) view tourism development not only as a key pillar for national development, but most importantly as a mechanism to alleviate poverty, generate foreign revenue for the government, and contribute to wildlife conservation.

With exception of Kenya and Tanzania, which also have a well-developed coastal tourism segment, the remaining East African Community countries are landlocked, with nature and wildlife remaining as the only core tourism assets. Yet, they still regard tourism as a key contributor to transforming their economies in the years to come. While this sounds like a honorable aspiration, most tourism revenues have been generated through narrow tourism products, such as wildlife and national parks, based on a few species (i.e. the big five and the mountain gorillas).

Other challenges affecting the potential for tourism to flourish include political stability and governance, infrastructure development, service standards, and human capacity just to name a few.

This article briefly looks at the current top tourism destinations within East Africa.

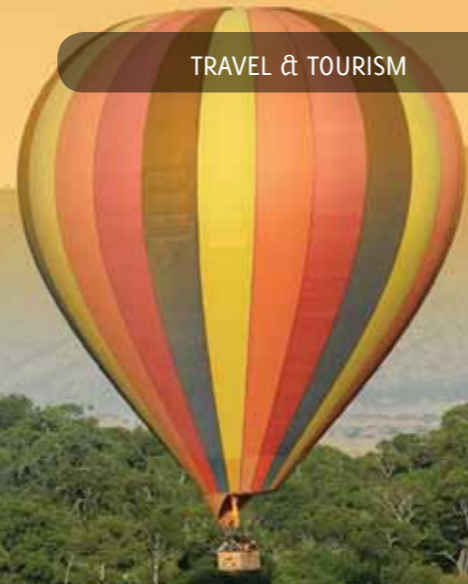
Current developments within the Tourism Sector in East Africa

Three Partner States of the East African Community (EAC) namely; Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects initiative, waived visa fees for foreign residents living within the 3 countries in order to allow them easier access to the region's diverse offering.

The waiver agreement is part of the Joint Communiqué that Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda signed at the 8th Northern Corridor Integration Summit held in Nairobi in December last year.

Known as the East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV), foreign residents no longer have to pay the \$100 fee for the Visa that is valid for ninety days effective from 15th December, 2014. The single tourist visa will provide an amazing opportunity for residents staying in the three Partner States to explore the immense diversity of wildlife, landscapes, cultures, and heritage, among other renowned attractions either for weekend gateways, corporate retreats or annual family holidays.

Damaris is a Media Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat



Virunga Mountains (Tracking Gorillas) in Uganda and Rwanda



With only about 700 mountain gorillas left in the world, seeing them in the wild is something only a few people will ever have the chance to experience. About 300 mountain gorillas inhabit an extinct volcanic region called the Virunga Range along the borders of Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC in East Africa. The time you are allowed to spend observing the gorillas is limited, but I can guarantee the hour spent sitting and watching these incredible animals will be one of the best you've ever had.

The Maasai Mara Kenya



If you want to see the 'big five' in one morning, Maasai Mara in Kenya is the place to be. During the dry season from July to October the wildlife spectacle is unparalleled. Nowhere else can you watch the annual migration of over a million wildebeest from a hot-air balloon. The 'Mara' is as close to "Out of Africa" as you can get.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area Tanzania



The Ngorongoro Conservation area in Tanzania includes the world's largest crater, which acts as a natural enclosure for almost every species of wildlife found in East Africa. The Maasai still live within the conservation area, and it's also home to Olduvai (Olduvai), where some of man's earliest remains have been found.

Beaches along Lake Tanganyika



Compared to the rest of the East African region (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda), Burundi has tropical climate all year round, bird lakes which are homes to various birds' species and are well distributed, especially on the north of the country. In addition to this, culture is a valued heritage that has been well preserved for many generations. Last but not least, the beaches along the famous Lake Tanganyika are the main eye-catchers of Burundi.

How excessive thirst for tourists' dollars is killing cultural tourism

ADAM IHUCHA

Dressed in a bright red shuka with strands of equally colorful beads around his neck, Peter Lesongoyo, 27, stands along the road leading to Engaresero village in northern Tanzania, desperately waiting for tourists. Unexpectedly, the tall and lanky Maasai morani together with 20 or so peers are silent, with no strength to shout or perform the traditional Maasai dance in the savannah scenery.

Each has an unpleasant story to tell. Life is unbearable. Tourists have suddenly given their village the cold shoulder; for reasons neither Lesongoyo nor his peers know. "I'm greatly worried not only for myself, but also for the entire community because if tourist numbers keep on falling, we will perish of hunger" says Lesongoyo.

Indeed, as you travel from Arusha to the Lake Natron or Lake Eyasi sprawling basins, you enter a world of private horror, where indigenous communities struggle to survive and cope with a modern lifestyle.

Hadzabe, Maasai and Tatoga ethnic groups, the surviving remnants of the relic of the hunter-gatherers and nomadic pastoralists on earth, primarily live on what nature provides. Their staple foods are wild fruits, honey, bush meat, and milk.

Owing to Climate Change and other modern developments - such as commercial agriculture and mining - which have depleted thick vegetation, the indigenous communities have been forced to abandon their traditional ways in order to survive.

In their efforts to adapt, the communities have been engaging in a new trade - Cultural Tourism, an alternative economic activity, to keep their lives going. They sell traditional items such as bead jewelry and traditional outfits. Until recently, this new trade enabled ends to meet. But, the new business that brought rays of hope is not without storms.

Nuisance fees

Tourists travelling to Lake Natron and Oldonyo Lengai have since 2012 been subjected to a \$40 transit fee. Similarly, Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro district councils have imposed various unspecified charges on each foreign visitor. Tourists pay \$10 at Engaruka gate in Monduli District Council, another \$10 at Oldonyo Lengai for Longido District Council, while Ngorongoro District Council collects as high as \$20 at Engarasero barrier.

Alexis Cronin, a foreign tourist doesn't understand why he should pay \$40 as a transit fee in addition to \$25 entry fee. "It doesn't make sense for me to pay \$40 for nothing, just on transit, I don't know, but for me this is unfair. I wouldn't mind if I would pay these money directly to the community" Mr Cronin says.

As a result, tour operators have since March 1, 2013, unanimously excluded the route on their itineraries to protest against the local authorities' fees.

Final blow

Coordinator of cultural tourism at Mto wa Mbu, Wesley Kileo says the local authorities' decision is a final blow to the indigenous communities whose livelihood depend on cultural tourism.

Mr Kileo says the cultural tourism created employment to nearly 600 youth in the form of tour guides as well as workers at various campsites and lodges surrounding Lake Natron, Engaruka ruins and Oldonyo Lengai Mountain. "This area is dry, with no other meaningful economic undertaking other than cultural tourism. The introduction of numerous fees is the final blow to these indigenous people living along the route," he says.

With Climate Change and its ripple effects hitting hard northern Tanzania, indigenous youths in the villages around these attractions teamed up into groups and took up Cultural Tourism as a trade. Each tourist wishing to kill a half or full day visiting the waterfalls, Embalulu Crater, the Rift Valley escarpment, Lake Natron shore, Orpur baboon caves, the footprints, and a the hot springs would pay \$25 as an entry fee.


Sadly, tourists have unexpectedly given the village the cold shoulder, as their numbers keep on declining each day due to the myriad of fees. A high ranking official with Engaresero cultural tourism project Lazaro Ndirima says vehicles taking tourists to these sites have fallen from 15 to a mere 6 per week on average, a 60 percent decline. "in 2013 we got 1,800 tourists earning us \$45,000, in 2014 we did not get to 1,000 because tourists just did not come," Mr Ndirima explains.

Lake Eyasi Cultural project coordinator Joseph Nyamsagori has the same story, saying in 2014 they projected to receive 2,500 tourists' vehicles, but merely hit the 1,000 mark.

Pro-poor

The pro-poor cultural tourism initiatives handle just 30 percent of the 1.2 million tourists who visit Tanzania's wildlife-rich-attractions annually. This means the segment is responsible for nearly 360,000 tourists, directly earning the common Tanzanians roughly \$32.4 million annually; however experts see this amount insignificant compared to its potential.

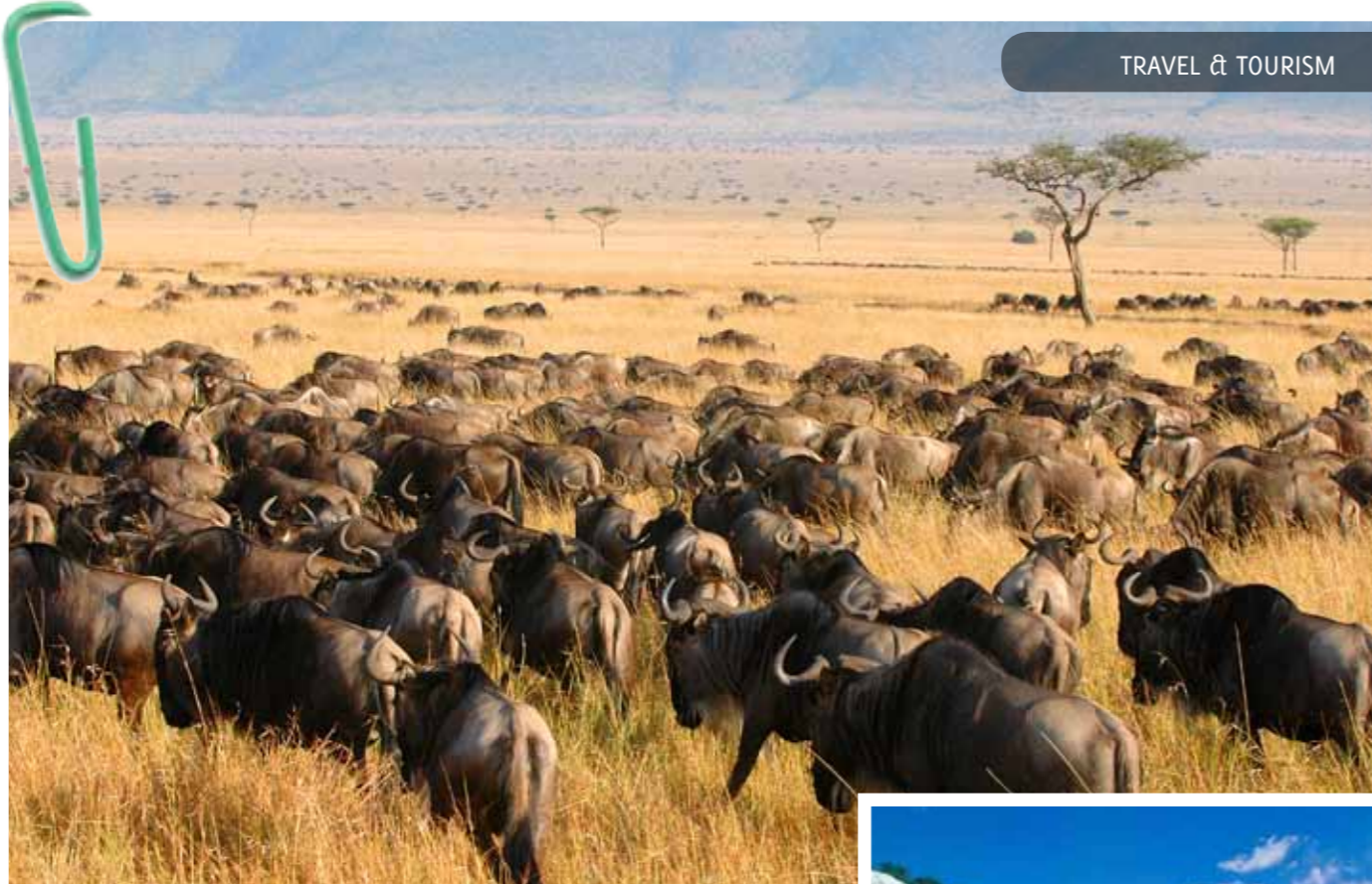
Looking beyond the numbers, experts say that this is a typical example of a successful model, in which tour companies could borrow a leaf to transfer the tourist dollars to the poor people in the region.

Cultural tourism if well developed can attract millions of tourists to East African given the cultural diversity the region boasts. Countries such as France, Egypt and Morocco rely on cultural tourism solely and have attracted millions of tourists. In 2013 alone, French cultural tourism attracted 87.3 million international tourists, Egypt 9.1 million and Morocco 10 million, generating a multi-billion-dollar industry. 

East Africa: a true single tourist destination

BRENDA MUGAMBI

The promotion of the EAC as a Single Tourism Destination is an ongoing task and innovative strategies are always sought to achieve this objective. The East African Community Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania have together set a pace in achieving fundamental stages of regional integration in the tourism and wildlife management sectors. Promoting the Region as a single tourist destination is a task addressed from within and beyond the Region. The wonders and opportunities the Region offers are to be enjoyed by visitors and citizens alike. ▶▶



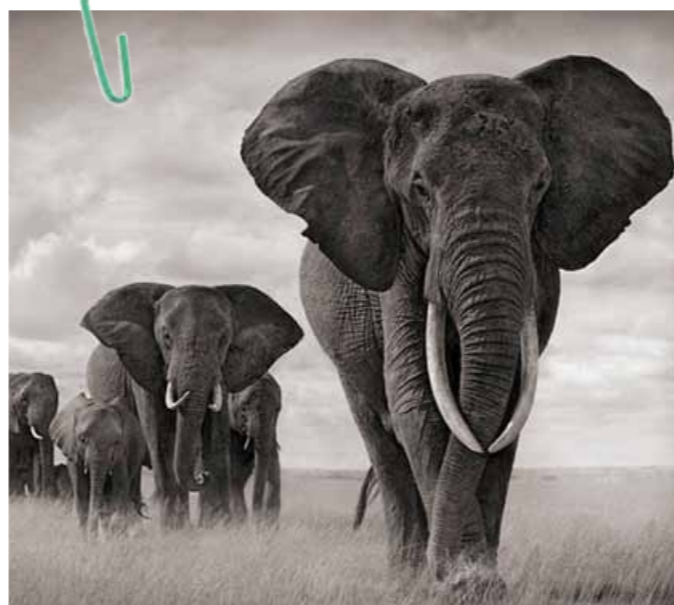
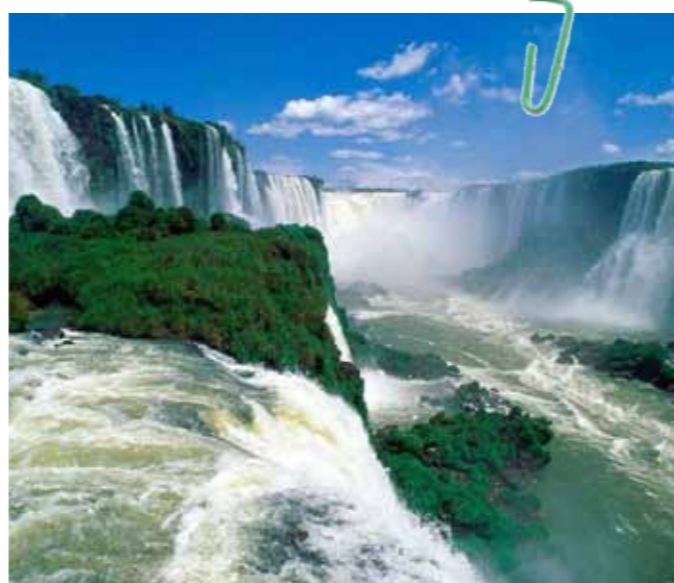
► In this respect the operationalization of the Common Market Protocol for example, will facilitate the free movement of people, skills, goods and services and will be a key anchor to encouraging intra-regional tourism. An additional milestone is trade and movement of goods and services especially favoured in the hospitality and travel industry is enhanced by the removal of non-tariff barriers and therefore the expansion of a free trade area.

As the Common Market Protocol supports East African Citizens, collaboration in the tourism sector includes harmonizing hospitality services, policies and laws in the region to sustainably utilize our resources. Harmonization of hospitality services includes a focus on quality rather than quantity, while the harmonization of policies and laws will develop mechanisms on the movement of people and skills in this vibrant industry to ensure the standards of quality in hospitality are met and the promotion of a Single Tourist Destination is achieved.

It is thus important to note that as we work towards opening up the Region and naturally increasing the opportunities in

the sector, we also need to strike the delicate balance between developing creative “products” that will continuously attract visitors to the region and sustaining the natural resources we have been blessed with. This requires measures that will ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of the flora, fauna and other tourist sites in the region by harmonizing policies for the conservation of wildlife within and outside protected areas, adopting common policies on wildlife management and development, joint efforts in controlling and monitoring encroachment and poaching activities, common use of training and research facilities, and lastly developing common management plans for trans-border protected areas.

A clear example that affirms Partner States’ commitment to sustainable utilization and conservation is the efforts being made towards harmonizing and strengthening regional wildlife legislations toward the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. Imposing tougher penalties, en-



hancing ranger’s capacity and welfare, protecting the migration corridors from human settlement and developing community based programmes have been addressed as they would contribute to ensuring that the East African Community remains the last frontier of wildlife living in its natural state. Furthermore, there are increased cross-border efforts for example in the Mara – Serengeti eco-system between Tanzania and Kenya that has seen an increase of the elephant population. But more so, all Partner States are committed to implementing international agreements to protect wildlife for the benefit of mankind.

Safety and security in the region affects the tourism sector directly. Taking note of the recent terrorist attacks in parts of our Community, the Ministers responsible for tourism agreed that Partner States should jointly address the negative image portrayed and subsequent negative travel advisories issued.

The strategies agreed when addressing negative travel advisories are to:

1. adopt a proactive approach to preempt the issuing of such negative travel advisories such as consulting safety and security aspects in each country by giving relevant updates on travel information within East

Africa and to the international travellers;

2. endeavour to report honestly and use the isolation strategy, to assure the people of the Community and their visitors that adequate security is provided; and
3. address any negative travel advisory (travel warnings) jointly as a Community through a general statement issued by the East African Community Secretariat through the Secretary General to:
 - a) Whoever has issued the negative advisories;
 - b) Partner States Missions Abroad; and
 - c) Any global tourism forum/event that will be able to communicate the message effectively.

4. encourage Tourism Trade Associations to ensure continuous dialogue with all Commonwealth member countries and to advise Commonwealth member countries to notify the Secretariat before publishing any travel warnings.



With this, the tourism sector shows promise for greater returns if jointly and collaboratively managed at regional level. The naturally provided product diversity is still popularly sought, however, the need to develop “other non-traditional” products such as our rich cultural diversity, wellness and lifestyle products is a proposed way forward.

East Africa is indeed a Destination of Wonders and Opportunities.

Many might be discovered but much many more lay undiscovered... **and probably in plain sight.** 🇰🇪

The author is a Tourism and Wildlife Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat



Colorful Burundi: most kept secrets

ALICE MARO

Myrrh of cries from the bitter past overshadow the Kibimba Memorial site in Gitega, Burundi where, in 1993, 75 high school Tutsi students were abducted from a nearby secondary school, locked in a gas station and burnt alive. As I entered the narrow door, I was transported through a motion picture depicting images of the innocent victims tightly clinched together in a circle with petrified facial expressions that ruminates the magnitude of the genocide encroaching on their final breaths.

Feeling a little bit suffocated myself, I quickly make my way back outside for fresh air. Just as I am catching my balance, my eyes look up to the skies and make contact with the words “Plus Jamis Ca! (Never Again!),” in bright green block letters that are mounted at the front of the building. After a two-minute downpour of tears running down my face, I wipe my eyes and head back into the car to make a two-hour journey back to Bujumbura.

Cultural Norms

Burundi, a hidden gem full of scenic treasures, lies in the central corridor of East Africa. Best known for its rich flora and fauna, this famous African destination has lots of adrenaline filled activities for nature lovers and adventure seekers. With the veins of Lake Tanganyika snaking through its valleys, the canvas backdrop of the surrounding mountains and the ever growing species of colored cichlid fishes, marine snails and gastropods only emanates the beauty in its seemingly-undulating coastal plains.

The rich culture of Burundi is deeply rooted in its own tradition though the influence of the neighboring countries cannot go unnoticed. Family bonding, music, dance, poetry are more than just an integral part of the lives of many Burundis. From the wide collection of the musical instru-

ments, weapons, and statues preserved in her museum, one will get a real feel of the Burundi culture and tradition.

Breathtaking Tranquility

Kibira National Park is the perfect gateway to the country's scenic landscapes. The Kibira forest in Burundi is bustling with some unique wildlife species; the red colobus monkeys, baboons, chimpanzees and the crested Mangabeys are some of the amazing creatures just waiting to receive you at their doorstep.

The mountain chain surrounding the park hides the awesome view of the thermal springs, but while heading towards the park, the tea plantations of Teza and Rwegura offer some of the best scenic attractions. The preservation of the Kibira National Park is mainly done for eco-tourism as it is the single mountainous forest in the entire Burundi area.

Bururi Natural Reserve lies on the extreme southern edge of Congo-Nile divide and is one of the popular Burundi tourist attractions. Bururi Forest Natural Reserve is a tiny patch of forest land that lies on the western portion of Bururi town. The reserve stretches to about 3,300 ha of land and the rest of the area is covered by the semi-evergreen forest.

Nestled in the northwest of Bujumbura, Rusizi National Park is commonly known as “Parc National de la Rusizi.” The park is divided into two parts; the larger part lies on the eastern bank of Rusizi River whereas the smaller part forms the delta of Rusizi at the entrance point of Lake Tanganyika.

Wildlife species in Rusizi National Park include hippopotamus, antelopes and monkeys along with numerous species of colorful birds. Among all the popular tourist attractions of Burundi, the Saga Beach is the most famous one and the adjacent resort makes it all the more inviting.

The serene and tranquil atmosphere on the Saga beach is extremely relaxing and refreshing and is ideal after a long, tiresome day. A shower in the heavenly water of these natural waterfalls acts as a refreshing treat to the body. The adventurous traveler will fall in love with the uniqueness of this country less travelled. 🇧🇷

Alice is a Communications Expert with the EAC-GIZ Programme

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- LAKE TURKANA **4**
- LAKE ALBERT **5**
- LAKE KIVU **8**

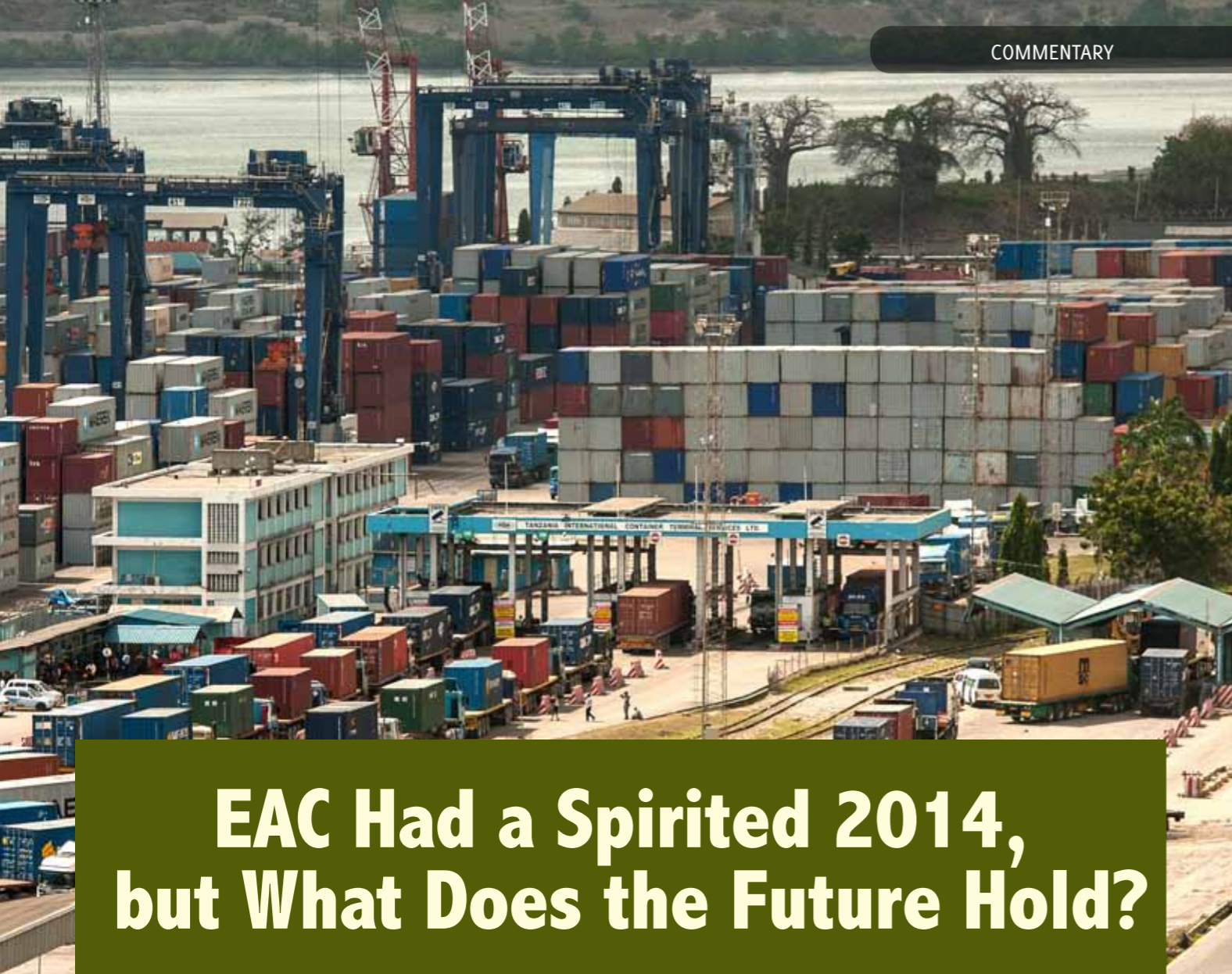
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OVER 20 **FIVE STAR** RATED HOTELS



EAST AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS





EAC Had a Spirited 2014, but What Does the Future Hold?

JAMES KARUHANGA

Yes, there was a discouraging wrangle in the East African Legislative Assembly (Assembly) and yes, al-Shabaab attacks again raised concerns over Kenya's as well as the wider East African Community's security. But the Community's overall 2014 performance had some positives whose end product impacts on the future of the five-member regional bloc.

The 12 months of 2014 saw no violent inter-state conflict and, in a way, the EAC is open for business in 2015. Minus al-Shabaab's terror in Kenya, the relative peace and stability remains critical in attracting investments to the region.

Quality Assurance

In February 2014, the EAC issued regulations to enhance the operationalization of the EAC standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing Act (SQMT), to facilitate regional trade. The regulations, among others, will provide consumer confidence of products traded in the region.

Common Market Scorecard

That same month, a new tool, a Scorecard, to assess progress toward developing the EAC Common Market was launched. It

measures Partner States' compliance to the free movement of capital, services and goods. At its launch in Arusha, EAC Secretary General, Amb. Sezibera said: "The scorecard is not about pointing fingers, or apportioning blame. It is about identifying areas where we are doing well and strengthening them". In 2015 and beyond, the Scorecard will help identify areas where reforms are required to meet expectations in the bloc's integration agenda. It is expected to also foster peer learning and facilitate the adoption of best practice in the region, thus helping fortify the regional market, grow the private sector and deliver benefits to consumers.

Travel and tourism

Also, tourism officials from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, met to mull over thorny issues that afflicted the sector since 2010. That the meeting happened was in itself an achievement. Outstanding among the issues that the ministers haggled over was that countries were denying entry of tourist vehicles registered in others'; cross border cooperation in wildlife law enforcement; and harassment of driver guides at border crossings; as well as disparities in fees charged. Ironing out these issues will impact on the bloc's tourism sector in 2015 and further.

Sustainable financing

The urgency and importance of cutting donor dependence was reiterated in 2014. Of the \$117.5 million 2013/2014 budget, EAC countries contributed \$37.2 million and donors, \$79.8 million. In March, Amb. Sezibera urged the Summit to adopt the alternative financing mechanism of 1% of customs revenue as earlier proposed so as to provide for financial solidarity and equity, key tenets of the integration process.

Some countries are now mobilizing domestic resources, either through infrastructure levies, or through setting aside monies from their own budgets," said Sezibera. "Secondly, because of good macro-economic management, our countries are able to borrow from capital markets. Rwanda has issued bonds. Kenya did the same and Tanzania will do the same".

Payments and settlements

Furthermore, the March launching of the EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project (EAC-PSSIP), an important project in light of the proposed East African Monetary Union (EAMU), the third stage of EAC integration, was important. The US\$23 million EAC-PSSIP project aims to enhance convergence and regional integration of payment and settlement systems; strengthen a harmonized legislative and regulatory financial sector; and build capacities in EAC countries.

The project, said Dr. Enos Bukuku, EAC's Deputy Secretary General (Planning and Infrastructure), is a requirement for the development and implementation of secure, efficient, reliable and integrated payment and settlement system to ensure efficient flow of financial transactions within the Monetary Union.

EPAs

The negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU that started in 2007 were concluded. It is the first time that the Community negotiated terms of trade with Europe and the deal is better than nothing. Even though the real benefits to EAC will have to be seen rather than expected, concluding the deal was significant as it ended the long-drawn-out and wearisome process of negotiations. The deal, it is hoped, will eventually provide legal certainty for businesses and open a long-term perspective for free and unlimited access to the EU market for products from the EAC.

Trade and Investment Hub

In November, the East African Trade and Investment Hub, a regional programme intended to increase food security and ramp up trade and investment between the US and East Africa was launched. The Hub, it is hoped, will assist EAC's private sector to engage with government in finding practical solutions to constraints to trade and investment, as well as build awareness around opportunities for African and U.S. firms to increase trade, expand business partnerships, and invest in east Africa.

The Bad News

Yes, the bloc largely stood on the weak side during 2014. For one, the ill of corruption remained a nagging burden. EAC countries generally continued to perform poorly in the fight against corruption with none surpassing the 50 percent threshold in the latest global corruption perception index by

Transparency International (TI). The World Bank's Doing Business 2014 report also paints a damning picture of the regional business climate, with the exception of Rwanda.

A key obstruction in the regional fight against graft is that regional anti-corruption agencies held opposing views on whether to give prosecutorial powers to their respective anti-corruption agencies. The signing of the EAC Protocol on Preventing and Combating Corruption was hampered by such differences.

Beyond 2014, to create jobs, the Partner States will need to jointly take further steps to tackle corruption, simplify business regulation and create a vibrant regional common market, among others.

Frosty relations


It remains unclear how the heart of inter-EAC relations will beat after Tanzania and Burundi hold their respective presidential elections, this year. But it is clear that regional leaders' relations and camaraderie matter for the integration agenda to thrive. Without the leaders' amity, a scenario akin to that which led to the EAC's 1977 collapse would, regrettably, be inevitable.

External shocks

Besides other unpredictable socio-economic external or global shocks, the wave of violence and instability in the bloc's shaky neighbors, especially the DR Congo, South Sudan and Somalia, is another cause for concern in 2015 and afar. Peace and stability in these neighbors would by the same token imply socio-economic gains for the EAC, and vice-versa.

The two-year old tit-for-tat violence in the world's youngest state which seceded from Sudan in 2011, for example, did not only claim thousands of lives, displace thousands others and wreck the nascent oil economy but also directly hit the economies of Uganda and Kenya, some of South Sudan's biggest trading partners. Apart from the effect on cross-border trade, Uganda sent troops to assist President Salva Kiir against rebels led by his sacked vice-president, Riek Machar, forcing the country into war spending which definitely eats into its development budget.

On the other side, since the Operation Linda Nchi began in 2011, Al-Shabaab vowed retaliation against Kenya. Burundi, which has provided the second largest contingent to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), has also received threats from the militants. Somalia's insecurity has not only affected its hope of joining the EAC. It hampers EAC's economic progress when the bloc is forced to reinforce security at the expense of entirely focusing and pursuing much needed economic development.

Analysts say that only deepening security cooperation in eliminating Al-Shabaab and other security threats can deliver an enormous peace dividend benefiting not only Kenya and Somalia, but also the entire EAC in 2015 and beyond. 

James is a seasoned Journalist based in Kigali. This article was first published by the News Times

East Africa's prosperity Gap

East Africa appears to be doing well. Annual economic growth rates are averaging around 6 percent, and trade and foreign investment are rising. Some countries, such as Uganda and Tanzania, have large energy-resource endowments. In Kenya, the region's largest economy, finance and new consumer service industries are propelling growth – an important economic evolution.

Look deeper, and it is difficult not to worry. Across the region, the richest are the overwhelming beneficiaries of economic growth, while the poorest are falling further behind.

Numbers tell part of the story. The richest 10 percent of East Africans have an average annual income of US\$ 2,100. They tend to live in cities, work in industry or professional services, and send their children to private schools.

By contrast, the bottom 40 percent of East Africans make US\$ 225 a year – significantly below the threshold of US\$1.25 a day that development experts use to define extreme poverty. These poorest of the poor, are mostly in rural areas. They live without basic utilities such as power, clean water and sanitation. Their children have a 40-80 percent higher chance of dying before their fifth birthday.

Some problems cut across the extreme-poverty divide. Childhood stunting is on the rise everywhere, affecting 42 percent of the region's 24 million under-five children. All East African countries have achieved 100 percent primary school enrollment, but only 28 percent of primary school students in Uganda, and 49 percent in Kenya, go on to secondary education. In Rwanda and Uganda, 88 percent of secondary school students pass their national exams; in Tanzania and Kenya, the proportion is less than 30 percent.

10%

East African populace considered the richest

24%

Stunted children under five years in the region

24mil

The number of children under five years old in the region

2100^{US\$}

Average annual income of the richest in East Africa

28%

Students joining secondary school in Uganda

255^{US\$}

Average annual income of the poor in East Africa

40%

East Africans at the bottom of the pyramid

40-80%

The chance of the children of the poor to die below the age of five

49%

Students joining secondary school in Kenya

This Analysis was first published by the East African Business Times



Can Africa move away from Aid to more trade?

DR. CARLOS LOPES

What should Africa do to attract more private equity and how can it convert the illicit financial flows to funds for domestic resource mobilization, climate change and conflict resolution - these are pertinent issues which affect the long term development of the African economies. Financing developmental efforts in Africa has proved difficult in the past. Over reliance on overseas development assistance (ODA) was seen as the solution. Now we know better.

Lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have prompted a fresh wave of thinking. Africa needs a transformative developmental framework.

However, a structural transformation agenda will require an adequate, predictable, sustainable and integrated financing mechanism geared towards financing developmental goals. The continent must also embark on reforms to capture currently unexplored or poorly managed resources. This includes curtailing illicit financial flows and rather transforming those funds into a powerful tool for enhancing domestic resource mobilization, as a way of furthering the continent's development.

According to recent studies, from 1970 to 2008, Africa lost US\$854 billion to US\$1.8 trillion in illicit financial flows. The latest progress report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), where I deputize for President Mbeki, revealed that the annual average was between US\$50 billion and US\$148 billion a year (ECA,2013). Commercial money such as tax evasion and trade and services mispricing through multinational companies, constitute the largest component followed by proceeds from criminal activities and public sector corruption.

This loss undermines revenue generation and reduces the benefits from economic activities, particularly in the extractive sector. It is possible to redirect IFFs to increase domestic resource mobilization, finance the adaptation costs of climate change, and tackle conflicts in the region. IFFs undermine Africa's fiscal and policy space and deny its financial systems and Governments the opportunity to use domestic resource mobilization schemes. Tax evasion is a significant component of illicit financial flows as is aggressive tax avoidance and trade mispricing. Other means are unequal agreements and contracts by which resources are transferred from Africa.

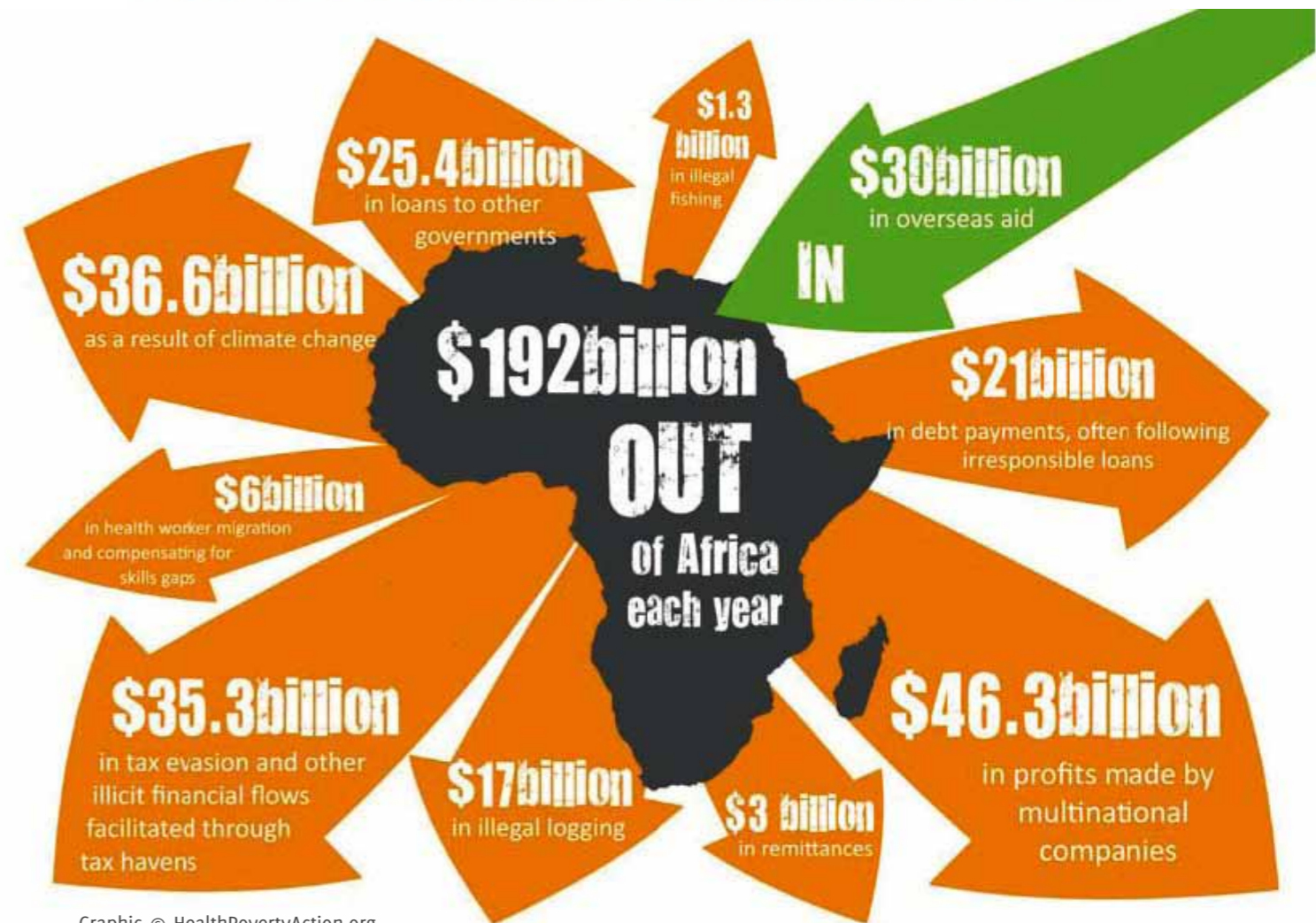
Examples include poorly negotiated resource extraction contracts, investment and double taxation agreements. For example some multinational companies take advantage of different double taxation treaties to shift profits from one country to another, exploiting the treaties with the lowest withholding tax rates. Curbing illicit financial flows to finance the adaptation costs of climate change illicit financial flows diminish resource capacity in the most vulnerable continent to the impact of climate change.

Adaptation will cost African countries billions of dollars a year, increasing pressure on development budgets. Innovative domestic climate finance opportunities such as resource savings from curbing illicit financial flows could help in financing resilient policies.

Understanding illicit financial flows and conflict in Africa

Illicit financial flows pose a threat to the stability and security undermine institutions and democracy, and jeopardize sustainable development and the rule of law. Many of the

Honest Accounts? The true story of Africa's billion dollar losses



Graphic © HealthPovertyAction.org

violent conflicts in the forest regions of Africa are tied to "lootable" commodities such as precious metals and rough diamonds that can be used to fuel conflict. Revenue from forestry are used by belligerents to purchase arms and other materials.

Clearly, to deal with the problems of conflict in Africa, it is imperative to curtail illicit financial flows and fight corruption and the institution of tax havens. Better taxation provide additional revenue to fund Government budgets. In line with this, Africa needs strong findings on mechanisms, strategies, and peer research to distinctly show the impacts of illicit financial flows on the different sectors of economic activity. Indeed, curtailing illicit financial flows could become a key delivery mechanism for sustainable development.

Concerted efforts by countries of origin and destination are needed. The legal and financial approach must be transparent and the international asset recovery regime integrated in an

effort to curb these outflows and unlock the much-needed resources.

The better use of ODA nowadays should be to create the support mechanisms that would allow Africans to benefit from their own wealth, rather than providing aid. 🇳🇬

Dr. Carlos Lopes is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

A Single Customs Territory to enhance regional trade

DAMARIS WAMBUI NYAGA

Attainment of the EAC Single Customs Territory (SCT) is premised on the need to consolidate the implementation of the Customs Union in accordance with the Treaty Establishing the East African Community and the Protocol on the Establishment of the Customs Union.


The main objective of the SCT is to lower the cost of doing business and enhance intra EAC trade by integrating Customs clearance processes and reducing internal border controls. At the Heads of State Summit held in April 2012, the Council was directed to develop a mechanism for the operationalization of a SCT.

In 2013, a framework was developed and adopted. The EAC SCT framework spells out the following three pillars: Free circulation of goods, Revenue Management and Legal and Institutional Framework. Implementation of this framework is supported by operational instruments outlining processes in Customs and other agencies.

On March 26th this year, EALA passed the East African Community Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in a move to ensure the smooth operationalization of the SCT and boost trade in the region.

The Bill is to amend the East African Customs Management Act, 2004 to facilitate the discharge of the functions of the Directorate of Customs and Trade as provided for in the Act as well as to facilitate smooth implementation of the Act, particularly on the procedures that facilitate the implementation of the EAC SCT.

What's in it for East Africans?

Realization of a SCT is beneficiary to the EAC citizenry in that it will consequently enhance trade within the region by: reducing the cost of doing business by eliminating duplication of processes, reducing administrative costs and regulatory requirements, enhancing capacity of the private and public sector agencies, creating a mechanism for prevention of smuggling at a regional level, reducing risks associated with non-compliance on transit goods, enhancing application of Information Technology (IT) and data collection at the regional level and realizing economies of scale and optimal use of resources in clearance of goods in the EAC. 

Damaris is a Media Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat

ANNAH NABAASA

The East African Court of Justice is an organ of the Community under Article 9 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. The Court is a judicial body tasked with ensuring the adherence to law in the interpretation and application of and compliance with the Treaty. EACJ has jurisdiction over the interpretation and application of the Treaty.

Who can file a case at EACJ?

The Partner States

Where a Partner State considers another Partner State, Organ or Institution of the Community has failed to fulfill an obligation under the Treaty or has infringed a provision of the Treaty, may refer the matter to the Court for adjudication.

A Partner State may refer for determination by the Court, the legality of any Act, regulation, directive, decision or action on the ground that it is ultravires, unlawful or an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty or any rule of law relating to the Treaty's application or amounts to a misuse or abuse of power.

The Secretary General

Where the Secretary General considers that a Partner State has failed to fulfill an obligation under the Treaty or has infringed a provision of the Treaty,

The Legal and Natural Persons

Any person who is a resident in a Partner State may refer for determination by the Court, the legality of any Act, regulation, directive, decision or action of a Partner State or Institution of the Community on the grounds that such Act, regulation, directive, decision or action is unlawful or is an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty.

Can the Court address disputes between the Community and its Employees?

EACJ has jurisdiction to hear and determine disputes between the Community and its employees that arise out of the terms and conditions of employment of the employees of the Community or the application and interpretation of the staff rules and regulations and terms and conditions of service of

the Community.

Who can appear and represent a party at EACJ?

The East African Court of Justice Rules of Procedure provide who can appear before the court:

A party to any proceedings in the Court may appear in person or by an agent and may be represented by an advocate.

The Counsel to the Community may appear and represent the Community or any of its Institutions

Accessing EACJ

A corporation or company may either appear by its director, manager or secretary, who is appointed by resolution under the seal of the corporation or the company, or may be represented by an advocate.

A person under legal disability may appear by guardian ad litem or next friend as the case may be and may be represented by an advocate.

The advocate for a party shall file with the Registrar a certificate that he or she is entitled to appear before a superior court of a Partner State.

A representative of a party other than an advocate shall for purposes of this file with the Registrar proof of his or her appointment as such representative.

What are the filing fees?

EACJ abolished Court filing fees which was previously required for the litigants to file a case. The amount of 500 USD was considered too steep for litigants and became a stumbling block to seeking justice at the EACJ. The removal of Court filing fees came to effect 11th April 2013.

Anna Nabaasa is a Programme Assistant at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)

If Your Boss Is Crazy – It's OK!



Leaders can be weird. Who they are often overlaps with what they do. Therein lies the conflict because people are affected by the leader's person. On this note, it's easy for people to hate their unpleasant boss.

A leader's weakness is almost unexpected, especially when they're highly influential. The days when leaders were believed to be descendants of the gods are over. Now, your boss is a person just like you with added responsibility.

I know leaders who still give the impression that they have no weaknesses. These guys paint an unreal image of who they are, even to their inner circle. This approach is not sustainable; fault lines cannot be hidden forever.

The conventional thinking suggests that leaders should focus on their strengths and not their weaknesses. I beg to differ.

My take: know, own and manage your weaknesses. You may outgrow some, while others may never go away. However, it's wise to put a weakness management system in place to keep you functional.

Your faults are elements, they don't define the whole. You can be crazy and still lead well.

Samuel Mpamugo
theyouideology.com

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A Tribute to Our Brothers and Sisters who fell Victim to the April 2 2015, Garissa University College Terror Attack in Garissa, Kenya.

Destination East Africa



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