

EAC-GIZ Overview



Working for a stable, competitive and sustainable East Africa.



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für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Godje Bialluch

Our Partner



East African Community



Seven Partner States



283.7 Million People



4.8 Million Square Kilometers

I. Welcome

Godje Bialluch, Cluster Coordinator for East African Community Cooperation

“Integration is about people.” This statement by the East African Community Secretary General Dr Peter Mutuku Mathuki, phrased before taking office in 2021, has been the paramount principle of EAC-Germany cooperation for a long time. Especially, in the current times of multiple crises and complex challenges, regional integration offers opportunities to strengthen economic and social resilience for the benefit of East Africans. Based on this fact, GIZ is working closely together with EAC to support regional integration in various sectors, aiming to bring tangible benefits to the mwananchi of East Africa.

On behalf of the German government, GIZ assists the EAC Secretariat and Partner States in driving the process of regional economic integration together with organisations from the private sector, civil society and academia. Utilising the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area, diversification of industries and adding value to products and services in the region is at the forefront of this partnership. Furthermore, the cooperation extends to projects in the areas of pandemic preparedness and academic education with a focus on digital skills and innovation. In addition, global and regional projects funded by the German government to support border governance and e-commerce are jointly implemented with the EAC. GIZ is also implementing partner of the European Union in the EU-EAC MARKUP project.

The EAC and Germany are united by a long history of cooperation that predates the re-establishment of the Community in 2000. The German government has supported the East African integration since 1998, based on the common understanding that regional integration will improve the social and economic development of EAC Partner States. Since then, Germany has committed more than 580 million euros for development cooperation with the EAC, making Germany one of the biggest and most reliable bilateral development partners of the Community. In 2022, the EAC and Germany have reaffirmed their long-standing cooperation after agreeing on additional funding and implementation of new projects during official government negotiations. As GIZ, we have received new funds to engage with EAC on prominent issues of environment and natural resources – for now focusing specifically on integrated water resource management in the region – as well as to operationalise the cross-border movement of professionals based on a digital mechanism to accelerate trade in services.

Additionally, we are consulting with EAC on the possible support to integrating its newest Partner State, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, into the Community. As the EAC Secretary General rightfully pointed out, the inclusion of DRC holds vast potential as it will make the region more competitive economically due to a larger market, spanning from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. We are ready to support EAC in utilising this potential within the commission frameworks of our joint projects.

In this overview, we present to you a summary of projects jointly implemented with the EAC as well as short information on the teams developing partner-oriented, innovative and sustainable solutions for and with the EAC to achieve lasting results for the people of East Africa. You will also find some information on recent activities as well as success stories from our cooperation with EAC. Please visit the website eacgermany.org to get more information on how projects are implemented, and results achieved.

We hope you enjoy reading about the EAC-GIZ cooperation!

Arusha, January 2023

The EAC is a regional intergovernmental organisation of now seven Partner States with the mission of establishing and deepening the economic, political, social and cultural integration of its members. The work of the EAC is guided by its Treaty which established the Community on 7 July 2000. The **four defined pillars** of integration include the establishment of a Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union And Political Federation.

The **vision of the EAC** is to be a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa.

The **mission of the Community** is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value-added production, trade and investments.

EAC integration
is a driver
for economic
growth
in the region.

Integration Pillars of the EAC



Customs Union



Common Market



Monetary Union



Political Federation

Co-funded by the
European Union

Funded by the European Union
and the German government



Based at the EAC Secretariat in
Arusha



Bringing global expertise to assist
the EAC as a partner in its imple-
mentation of a common market
and customs union



Supporting ten EAC
sectors



Working towards the achieve-
ment of the UN 2030 Agenda,
the AU Agenda 2063 and the
EAC's Vision 2050

II. Who We Are

The German government supports East African integration since 1998 based on the common understanding that regional integration will improve the social and economic development of East African Community (EAC) Partner States.

The support started with close cooperation with the EAC Secretariat mainly in customs and trade as well as strengthening the capacities of the Secretariat to coordinate the integration process. Today, Germany supports the implementation of the Customs Union and the Common Market by working with the EAC Secretariat, national ministries and other stakeholders such as national and regional private sector and civil society associations and academic institutions. The core areas are sustainable economic development, training and employment and health, social protection and population policy of the EAC Partner States.

On behalf of the German government and other commissioning partners, GIZ implements projects in support of EAC integration in ten sectors.



Agriculture &
Food Security



Customs Union &
Common Market



Education &
Training



Environment &
Natural Resources



Gender, Community
Development
& Civil Society Mobilization



Health



Industrial
Development & SME's



Investment
& Private Sector
Development



Peace & Security




Tourism & Wildlife

The economy of the EAC offers great opportunities for businesses to grow through, investment, digital innovation and skills development. EAC-GIZ team supports East African Community integration with the aim of strengthening sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development of the region. By promoting trade, digital skills and innovation, value addition, health & natural resources management, we contribute to the social & economic wellbeing of EAC citizens as well as to peace & security in the region.



EAC – GIZ Cooperation

Health, Social Protection and Population Policy	Sustainable Economic Development, Training and Employment					Conserving Nature and Natural Resources, Protecting Life on Earth		
Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC (PanPrep III)	One Health EAC Service Package of Global Programme (GV PPOH)	Support to East African Integration (SEAMPEC II)			Panafrikan e-Commerce Initiative (PeCI)	Digitalisation for East African Trade and Integration (DIGEAT)	Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA)	Support to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission on Integrated Water Resource Management (LVBC IWRM)
		Trade in Goods/AfCFTA Value Addition/Market Access	Trade in Services/ AfCFTA	Support to EAC Secretariat – Capacity Development, Communication				
		MARKUP						
								
		Support to the AfCFTA (GIZ AfCFTA)	AU Border Management (GIZ AUBP)					
Support to Implementing the 6 th EAC Development Strategy								



a. Core Projects

1. Support to East African Integration (SEAMPEC II)

Objective

The institutional and regulatory framework conditions for regional and continental trade in the East African Community are improved.

Duration

01.08.2022 – 31.07.2025

Volume

15,300,000 €

EAC sectors supported



Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Team



Name: Godje Bialluch

Position: EAC-GIZ Cluster Coordinator; Programme Manager

Main Tasks: Representation and coordination of the EAC-GIZ projects; overall responsibility for the implementation of SEAMPEC II.



Name: Max Middeke

Position: Deputy Programme Manager

Main Tasks: Coordination and implementation of activities of the SEAMPEC II Output Areas.



Name: Marius Weist

Position: Technical Advisor

Main Tasks: SEAMPEC II project management support; coordination of cluster communication; coordination of tourism activities.

SEAMPEC II Area of Support: EAC Capacity Development, Strategy Building & Communication



Name: Diana Mutabazi
Position: Knowledge Management Advisor
Main Tasks: SEAMPEC II communication and public relations and support coordination of EAC tourism activities.



Name: Joyce Kevin Abalo
Position: Economic Advisor, Gender Equality
Main Tasks: Technical advice and coordination of cross-cutting portfolio in SEAMPEC II and EAC-GIZ.



Name: Margrit Mueller
Position: Public Relations & Communications Advisor
Main Tasks: Coordination of MARKUP communication activities; security and risk management communication.

SEAMPEC II Area of Support: Trade in Service Liberalisation & Trade in Services and Goods (AfCFTA)



Name: Alexis Nzitonda
Position: Economic Policy Advisor (Trade in Services)
Main Tasks: Advisory to the EAC on trade liberalisation and coordination of Trade in Services activities.



Name: Lamech Wesonga
Position: Economic Policy Advisor (Trade in Goods AfCFTA)
Main Tasks: Advisory to the EAC and partner organizations to enhance the profile of the EAC AfCFTA portfolio in Trade in Goods.



Name: Dorica Nkhata
Position: Economic Policy Advisor (Trade in Services AfCFTA)
Main Tasks: Providing technical expertise and process advice to the EAC on Trade in Services in the EAC internal market and under AfCFTA.

SEAMPEC II Area of Support: EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP)



Name: Estella Aryada

Position: Team Leader

Main Tasks: Coordinator of MARKUP activities, supervision, and management of the programme coordination.



Name: Dr. Martin Kimanya

Position: Advisor

Main Tasks: Assessment and harmonization of food standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.



Name: Sylvester Malowa

Position: Communications and Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor

Main Tasks: Results-based monitoring, evaluation and coordination of communications and visibility.

SEAMPEC II Area of Support: Support to the Implementation of EAC Policies for Strengthening Trade in Goods



Name: Dr. Thomas Walter

Position: Team Leader

Main Tasks: Management of the GFA team with a focus on pharmaceuticals production and agro-processing.



Name: John Patrick Mwesigye

Position: Regional Pharmaceutical Expert

Main Tasks: Coordination of pharmaceutical sector promotion.



Name: Jennifer Gache

Position: Regional Agro Processing Expert

Main Tasks: Coordination of agro-processing and industrial development.



Name: Leyla Himba

Position: Finance and Administrative Manager

Main Tasks: Financial management and accounting, event management and office management.

Natacha Baranyuzwe – Good Manufacturing Practices Contributing to an Entrepreneurial Success Story



Natacha Baranyuzwe is a Rwandan entrepreneur believing in natural products to heal the world and be a source of livelihood for her community. After having been trained as a pharmacist, she set up her company BARANYUZWE COSMETICS Ltd in 2019 to produce herbal-based products for treatment of fungal infections of the scalp.

Already during her postgraduate studies, Natacha had discovered the therapeutic powers of *Pidens Pilosa*, a naturally occurring herbal plant in East Africa which has traditionally been used to treat various ailments. Due to intensive research, she was able to formulate a *Bidens Pilosa* hair shampoo and patented it at the Rwanda Development Board Intellectual Property Office. The product is a welcome relieve to women in Rwanda and beyond as the current alternatives are expensive and hardly effective.

After having set up her business, Natacha decided that she needed more expertise on how to produce high-quality products. Therefore, she partook in a six-week training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for herbal and traditional medicines offered by the EAC Secretariat via the GIZ SEAMPEC programme to entrepreneurs in all EAC Partner States in late 2020.

In 2022, over one year after the training, we wanted to hear from Natacha, how it has helped her business.

One thing is obvious – her product portfolio is growing. Already in 2020, Natacha had ventured into hand sanitizer production by blending ethanol and the *Pidens Pilosa* extract. The combination proved effective and has been licensed by both Rwanda Food and Drug Authority and the Rwanda Standards board. According to Natacha, the sanitizer has become so popular that it is now the brand of choice in most weddings and is being widely distributed in the country.

Natacha also used the training to improve the quality of her products even as she expanded her business. She stresses, “What I learned is that for high-quality products, you need highly qualified personal. Since the training, I hired two laboratory analysts and make sure that my staff is constantly trained.” By now, Natacha is employing ten staff members.

Furthermore, Natasha notes, “Through the training, I realised that I cannot be competitive on the East African market with the rudimentary instruments I had been using prior.” Now, Natacha is using validated equipment to produce high-quality products. Additionally, she has established close working relations with the Rwanda Standards Board, so that she is always up to date on latest developments and can adjust accordingly.

Another aspect of the training was the importance of self-inspection. Since then, if there are any issues during production, Natacha identifies and solves them herself before the product goes on the market. “For each batch number, I have a quality control laboratory in place that checks the batch. The laboratory analyses basic parameters and guarantees high-quality products. If anything is missed, documentation allows to always link back to any specific batch.”

All of this has benefited Natacha’s business. Not only did she just start another new product line – solid soaps for different uses such as showering, hand washing, floor cleaning or laundry – she is also already thinking about developing her own line of drinking water.

Due to her high-quality products, Natacha has raised interest of exporters so that her products can be found in other EAC Partner States. Whilst for now, Natacha herself is only selling in Rwanda, expansion to the rest of EAC – including its newest member DRC – is already on the table.

What a great success story!

Scan the QR code above to find out more about Natacha’s company

2. Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA)

Objective

Employment and innovation related digital skills of youth in all East African Community Partner States are strengthened.

Duration

01.04.2021 – 31.03.2025

Volume

8,200,000 €

EAC sectors supported



Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Team



Name: Simon Hochstein

Position: Programme Manager

Main Tasks: Overall responsibility for the implementation of the project.



Name: Linda Kwamboka

Position: Advisor

Main Tasks: Digital Skills and employment.



Name: Evelyn Elliseus Rutazaha

Position: Advisor

Main Tasks: Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

EAC Digital Pioneers – Easing Loan Requests for Burundian Bank Customers



Armel Bizoza had been working at BGF Bank in Bujumbura for some time as an IT Executive when he decided it was time for him to develop his skills even further. With a fully-funded scholarship via German Development Cooperation with the EAC, Armel started a Master's Programme in Embedded and Mobile Systems at CENIT@EA at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Arusha in January 2020.

When asked, why he changed from a paid job to university, Armel stressed that he felt the need to acquire additional knowledge. "I wanted to perform better as an IT expert. To grow your career, you must learn."

In fact, Armel was more than able to grow his career. At the end of his studies, he needed to find an internship place to apply the skills he had gained. For him, there was no place more obvious than BGF Bank. "Searching for internship places, I was interested in BGF because I had always liked working there before. Also, I was aware of the bank's need for digital solutions. I wanted to apply what I had learned and develop innovations that would help my former employer."

For a duration of two months in late 2021, Armel found himself to be working for BGF once again. Though this time he was well-equipped with digital skills. "I agreed with management to bring IT solutions to the bank. When I applied, I had in mind to design a cue management system to help clients." As it showed, Armel was more than flexible to adjust to the bank's needs as his supervisor asked him to work at the credit department since there was an urgent need for a system that would enhance loan request processes.

Right away, Armel agreed to develop an IT system that manages loan requests. Now, due to the app he designed, there is no more need for customers to come to the bank for application. They can apply for the loan online including uploading all necessary documents. Once the loan is granted, the customer will be contacted to come to the bank. Today, Armel is still finalising the first prototype as it will need to be linked to the security system of the bank. He stresses that he is not done yet, "After I finish my studies, I want to go back to BGF and get approval from BGF management so that my app can be added to the Appstore and customers can download it".

Olivier Kaboko, Director of Information Systems at BGF, shows his appreciation for Armel's work, "Armel brought a new manner to confront problems and resolve them with technological means to BGF. The work he did during his internship will help BGF to serve our customers even more quickly and efficiently when they ask for loans. This will help us to receive new customers".

The benefits of introducing Armel's system are apparent. Firstly, the process becomes easier for the bank if all is done virtually, thereby speeding things up. Secondly, customers can save time and money as they do not need to travel from rural areas to Bujumbura to apply. Thirdly, physical contacts are reduced – another plus in times of COVID-19.

Adding to the loan request system, Armel already has more ideas. "I will go to BGF after finishing my dissertation to see how my mobile system is implemented. Due to my studies, I have a good chance of being hired again. Then, I could also develop and implement an e-office system. This would allow bank management to see digitally who is working on a request in the bank. If there is a delay, you can see where the process is and who is delaying."

Looking back at his studies, Armel highlights, "CENIT@EA helped me to open my eyes on innovation. I know how to tackle challenges now, and I have the basics to work on solving them. I needed this." He also points out that studying in a multicultural environment was a great experience. "I have connections all over East Africa now. I have brothers and sisters from all EAC Partner States and can exchange with them on how to solve problems."

Asked about regional integration, he acknowledges, "Being together is a strength. There is much advantage in coming together and exchanging knowledge. Being able to travel the region freely without visa restrictions is a huge advantage. The exchange of goods, services, and people will better the lives of all East Africans. A team of six can do more than one".

Going forward, Armel wants to contribute to the development of East Africa. "I want to give something in return for the opportunity that I received at CENIT@EA." Indeed, he already found a great way to start.

Scan the QR code above to find more information on dSkills@EA and the Master's Programme

3. Digitalisation for East African Trade and Integration (DIGEAT)

Objective

The cross-border access to Labor markets in the EAC Partner States for professionals is simplified.

Duration

01.07.2022 – 30.06.2025

Volume

3,000,000 €

EAC sectors supported



Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Team



Name: Yodit Zeggay

Position: Programme Manager

Main Tasks: Overall responsibility for the implementation of the project.



Name: Pacifique Karinda

Position: Digitalization and Trade Advisor

Main Tasks: Advisory to the EAC on digital tools to strengthen the cross-border mobility of engineers.

EAC and GIZ Launch Joint Project on Easing The Movement of Engineers in the EAC Region



The East African Community and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), after signing the respective Government and Implementation Agreements, jointly launched the new project Digitalisation for East African Trade and Integration (DIGEAT) with an official ceremony at the EAC Secretariat.

The German Government committed EUR 3,000,000 through the initiative Digital Africa, which harnesses digital applications to achieve development goals.

The EAC Secretariat and its implementation partner Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) jointly developed the concept for the new project over the past year. DIGEAT aims to simplify the cross-border movement of engineers to render their services in all EAC Partner States. To achieve this objective, the project will improve the relevant regulatory framework and the necessary digital services and tools.

DIGEAT aims to advance on EAC achievements and the cooperation of the EAC Secretariat and GIZ in the Support to East African Market-Driven and People-Centred Integration (SEAMPEC) Project, which has supported the free movement of professionals and provided support to the implementation of the respective Mutual Recognition Agreements for professions such as engineers.

DIGEAT will build on these results with a focus on utilising the benefits of digitalisation and digital applications. To this end, it will work closely with SEAMPEC's follow-on project, which will start in August 2022 with an overall commission value of EUR 15.3million. SEAMPEC II will contribute to increased intra-regional and continental trade for the benefit of East Africans.

Speaking at the launch, EAC Secretary General Hon. Dr Peter Mathuki lauded GIZ for championing digital programmes to create job opportunities for youths in the region.

"The DIGEAT Project is timely as it finds when the EAC is pushing for all Partner States to leverage on new technologies to support the migration of production and service delivery to digital platforms and enhance e-business opportunities across the region," he said.

In his remarks, GIZ Country Director Dr Mike Falke highlighted that increased trade in services and the seamless cross-border movement of professionals is a significant step to deepen economic integration in the EAC.

'In order for this to succeed, the implementation of the existing, and potentially agreement on new, Mutual Recognition Agreements needs to be advanced. With its innovative and consultative approach and utilization of digital tools DIGEAT may offer an efficient and replicable solution, that creates efficiency and ease where currently complex administrative and bureaucratic processes hinder the moving of engineers,' said Dr Falke.

DIGEAT's implementation by the EAC Secretariat will be supported in collaboration with GIZ as part of the long-standing development cooperation between the EAC and Germany. It falls under the cooperation area of Socially and Environmentally Sound Supply Chains, Trade and Sustainable Infrastructure.

Scan the QR code above to find more EAC-GIZ latest news

4. Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region (PanPrep III)

Objective

The support of the EAC Secretariat to its Partner States in pandemic preparedness is improved.

EAC sectors supported



Duration

01.09.2022 – 31.08.2025

Volume

4,000,000 €

Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Team



Name: Burkard Kömm

Position: Programme Manager

Main Tasks: Overall responsibility for the implementation of the project.



Name: David Mbulumi

Position: Regional Advisor Risk and Crisis Communication

Main Tasks: Advising the EAC Secretariat on risk and crisis communication and community awareness as an instrument of pandemic preparedness.

East African Community Steps Up Readiness for Health Emergency Response



The East African Community Secretariat today held the first simulation exercise (SIMEX) since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in order to strengthen preparedness and bolster response to future public health emergencies in the Partner States. The exercise is part of a one-week regional training workshop to strengthen national capacities for exercise operations at ports of entry and is a follow up on Table Top exercise conducted in Arusha in 2018 and the cross-border field simulation exercise at the Namanga border between Kenya and Tanzania in June 2019.

The simulation exercise taking place at Kilimanjaro International Airport in the United Republic of Tanzania is intended to test the knowledge and skills acquired by the participants during the training workshop. The aim of the exercise is to link early warning with preparedness and response. The logistics drill includes a realistic disaster scenario which will help the participants to build skills for design and implementation of simulation exercises at national level.

Kilimanjaro International Airport Security Manager, Justine Makomondi Kisusi, confirmed that the exercise is necessary for strengthening readiness to respond to public health emergencies: “We are delighted to receive all delegates for this emergency simulation exercise, as it will help us combat future outbreaks”.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, in recent years, the East African Community (EAC) has experienced numerous outbreaks of infectious diseases and other events of public health concern, such as droughts and floods. In the African Region, about 100 public health events are reported annually. In the last three years, East Africa has had several disease outbreaks such as yellow fever, cholera, Rift Valley fever, Marburg virus disease, measles and Ebola. The region is also prone to natural disasters such floods, landslides and drought. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the need to enhance public health emergency capacities at ports of entry.

To better prepare for public health emergencies, the EAC Secretariat, with support of WHO and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, conducted a training of 60 emergency response experts and officials from Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda on management of public health emergencies at ports of entry. The participants were selected from various One Health sectors including health, environment, agriculture and animal health, trade, tourism and defence.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Dr David Balikowa from the East African Community noted that it is critical to keep “assessing and improving the regional health crisis response capacity and status of implementation of the International Health Regulations”. Dr Mary Stephen, the WHO Regional Office for Africa Focal Point for International Health Regulations reminded participants of the increasing occurrence of emerging and re-emerging diseases which present immense challenges to detect and contain. The Manager of the EAC/GIZ Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region project in Arusha, Tanzania, Dr Irene Lukassowitz, agrees on the need to be prepared for future outbreaks, as “fighting for more resilient health systems can also help withstanding the shock if disaster and potential damage from emergencies”.

Scan the QR code above to find more information on the PanPrep programme

5. Lake Victoria Basin Commission in Integrated Management of Transboundary (LVBC IWRM)

Objective

Institutional framework conditions for integrated management of transboundary water resources in the East African Community are improved.

Duration

01.01.2022 – 31.12.2024

Volume

3,300,000 €

EAC sectors supported



Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Team



Name: Conrad Thombansen

Position: Programme Manager

Main Tasks: Overall responsibility for the implementation of the project.



Name: Omari Iddi Myanza

Position: Technical Water and Sanitation Advisor

Main Tasks: Strengthening the capacity of EAC/LVBC in management of transboundary resources.

Project for Strengthening Integrated Water Resource Management Launched at LVBC in Kisumu



With support from the Federal Government of Germany, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the East African Community Secretariat officially launched the Integrated Water Resources Management (TC-IWRM) project to be implemented by GIZ in Kisumu, Kenya on 6 July 2022.

The TC-IWRM project aims at achieving strengthened capacities of LVBC and EAC Secretariat institutions in Integrated Water Resources Management as a pathway towards sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Basin Region covering parts of 5 EAC Partner States.

According to the LVBC Executive Secretary, Dr. Bwire K. Masinde, expected results of the projects are harmonized policies, strategies and guidelines to further improve lake level management, water quality improvement and Lake Victoria Catchment management as part of the LVBC's mandate. He therefore applauded the support from the Federal German Government as "additional expression of deepening partnership and friendship between LVBC/EAC and the Federal Government of Germany."

In his statement, Dr. Bwire underscored the linkages between the GIZ project and LVBC's vision which seeks to "ensure people living within the Basin live in a healthy and sustainably managed environment opportunities and benefits."

The launched project will also contribute towards enhancing the resource mobilization role of LVBC and contribute to sustainability of the existing development initiatives such as High Priority Investments (HIPs) yet to be implemented in 5 EAC Partner States. HIPs are funded by Federal Government of Germany through KfW and in cooperation with the European Union.

The German Head of Delegation, Ms Claudia Imwolde-Kraemer, Deputy Head of the Division for East Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, emphasized the important role the LVBC plays in the EAC-German cooperation: "The sustainable management of natural resources and combating the effects of climate change are important elements in German cooperation. We therefore decided to substantially increase our support to the work of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission in this regard and are looking forward to a continuation of our excellent cooperation under the commission's new management."

The IWRM project is financed at a tune of EUR 3.3 million and is an additional contribution to the LVBC's sustainable development agenda. Project beneficiaries include EAC Secretariat, LVBC, EAC Partner States, institutions within EAC Partner States responsible for water resources management, representatives of civil society and the private sector. The project will also contribute towards promotion of sustainable economic use and environmental protection of the EAC's water resources with specific focus on regional frameworks and promotion of effective Integrated Water Resources Management.

Scan the QR code above to find more information on strengthening Integrated Water Resource Management

b. Associate Projects

6. African Continental Free Trade Area, EAC-Component

(part of: GIZ-AU African Continental Free Trade Area Project; AfCFTA)

Objective

Support the EAC Secretariat to play its coordination role in fostering coordinated negotiations and realization of the AfCFTA at regional and national level

Duration

01.08.2020 – 01.08.2024

Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



EAC sectors supported



Name: Rehema Nzallawahe
Position: Technical Advisor
Main Tasks: Responsible for AfCFTA EAC- component objectives and synergies with SEAMPEC II.

7. EAC e-Commerce Support *(part of: Pan African E-Commerce Initiative – Boosting African Digital Trade; PeCI)*

Objective

PeCI works to improve the preconditions for the companies in selected African countries to participate in cross-border e-Commerce.

Duration

01.08.2020 – 31.01.2023

Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



EAC sectors supported



Name: Aiman Ahmed Noor
Position: Technical Advisor
Main Tasks: Coordination and implementation of project activities in the EAC.

EAC and GIZ Embark on Capacity Building Programme on AfCFTA



In order to successfully implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it is important that a critical mass be capacitated on various aspects of the AfCFTA and create awareness amongst stakeholders to ensure that all stakeholders are made aware of what to expect and how the AfCFTA will impact on them and the sectors they are involved in.

In readiness to implement the AfCFTA, the EAC with the support of GIZ has embarked on capacity building program commencing with training of trainers sessions including on the AfCFTA Rules of Origin. As customs officers are central to the roll-out and actual application of the AfCFTA instruments, an in-depth understanding of the AfCFTA by customs officials and a high level of awareness by all stakeholders is of great importance.

Accordingly, the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with GIZ has conducted two training sessions for customs officers so far. One in Kigali, Rwanda, 26 to 30 September 2022 and in Mombasa, Kenya, 24 to 28 October 2022.

“GIZ is a true partner, for EACS to ensure that all partner states are on the same page in terms of its integration process, it needs a lot of resources -technical and financial and GIZ is one of the partners who supports the EAC integration process, including capacity building and sensitization on the AfCFTA.” Steven Analo thanked GIZ for its continued support to EAC in a quote from his closing remarks today.

Background

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the Pan-African instrument to boost intra-African trade. It aims at creating a single African market by deepening the economic integration of the continent. EAC-GIZ is supporting the EAC in AfCFTA negotiations including investment, intellectual property right and competition. The GIZ support to the AfCFTA is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Scan the QR code above to find more information on AfCFTA

8. Border Governance in Africa, EAC Component

(Part of: GIZ-AU Support to the African Union Border Programme; GIZ-AUBP)

Objective

Support the EAC Secretariat and Partner States by promoting effective and sustainable border governance to prevent conflicts between African states and promote regional integration.

Duration

01.01.2020 – 30.06.2023

Commissioned by

German Federal Foreign Office



EAC sectors supported



Team



Name: Lindiwe Ngwenya

Position: Component Manager EAC

Main Tasks: Technical advisory, partner engagement and implementation of project activities.

Open Borders and Border Security can go Hand in Hand.



Open borders, although essential for regional integration, are still widely perceived as a threat to border security. In East Africa, where regional integration is progressing, managing border security while urging for free movement of persons and goods can pose a challenge. A central solution approach that is already adopted is the concept of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs). The GIZ Support to the African Union Border Programme (GIZ-AUBP) cooperates with the EAC in operationalising these OSBPs via capacity development.

OSBPs can be defined as a single building at the border where border agencies from two neighbouring countries are present. Ideally, their systems are interconnected so that they can conduct checks jointly on the side of the country of entrance. The OSBP concept is one of the strong embodiments of Coordinated Border Management (CBM). In contrast, before establishing the OSBP concept, each country had their own border crossing points, where border agencies worked in silos, and where people and goods were subject to two checks – one at the country of exit, one at the country of entry – by both respective national authorities who mostly did not share information among each other. Implementing the concept of OSBPs brought a noticeable difference for both border agencies and users of the crossing points.

Within the cooperation between GIZ-AUBP and the EAC Secretariat one regional training tool on operationalising OSBPs and coordinated border management was developed and border officers trained about the essence and goal of the OSBPs. This fostered the capacities of operating officers with a harmonised knowledge – given that they come from different agencies, different countries, yet bound to work together. For Director General Customs and Trade of the EAC, Kenneth Bgamuhunda, the benefits are obvious, “It is through such common training and capacity building instruments that EAC guarantees that officials and stakeholders within the EAC are equitably equipped to fully participate in the regional integration agenda.” In addition, the initiative improved operation procedures of administrations from neighbouring countries, thereby also advancing regional integration within the EAC.

Following a ‘Training of Trainers’, over 350 officers from immigration, customs, border police, intelligence, port health, plant and veterinary, revenue authorities have been trained at twelve OSBPs throughout all six EAC Partner States within a two-year period. With the operationalisation of the OSBPs and the joint training “we discover each other, we discover our complementarity, we discover our common challenges and shared responsibility to ensure the security of our countries borders while fostering regional integration”, stressed Daniel Kalimuzo, Customs Officer at the Gatuna-Katuna OSBP after taking part in the exercises.

All this is having an impact at several levels. Firstly, the coordination of border officers and agencies has led to a more efficient identification of cross-border criminal activities. Secondly, it has reduced the number of arrests of citizens by officers from either side of the border, which used to create tensions between administrations from neighbouring countries. Thirdly, the coordination and one-check process resulted in swifter border crossings reportedly reducing waiting time for people and goods by approximately 45%, which is a tremendous economic and social gain. This goes to show – open borders and border security can go hand in hand.

Photo: ©GIZ-AUBP

Scan the QR code above to find more information on AUBP

9. Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health (GVPPOH)

Objective

Support the EAC Secretariat in the implementation of the regional One Health (OH) strategy to institutionalize OH in the EAC region.

Duration

01.01.2021 – 31.03.2024

Volume

2,000,000 €

EAC sectors supported



Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Team

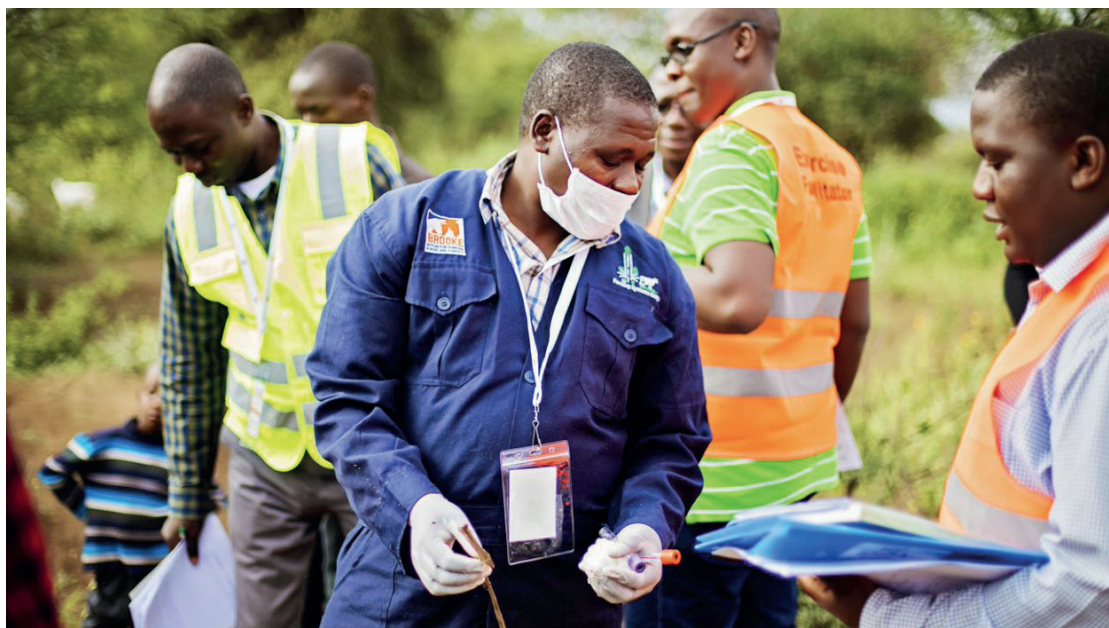


Name: Wiebke Kobel
Position: Technical Advisor
Main Tasks: Overall coordination of activities under the EAC - Global Programme cooperation on pandemic prevention and response with a One Health approach.



Name: Dr Henry Irunde
Position: Regional Health Advisor
Main Tasks: Supporting the strategic, conceptual, and financial coordination and implementation of the regional activities of the GVPPOH in EAC with focus on human capacity development.

Support to the Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal and Zoonotic Diseases in the EAC Region



The EAC region experiences a high prevalence of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) such as food and mouth disease as well as zoonotic diseases which are transmissible to humans such as Rabies. These diseases are not only a major constraint to livestock production but also represent a threat to animal health, public health as well as food and nutrition security. Furthermore, they have an adverse impact on trade and tourism.

Transmission of TADs and zoonotic disease does not stop at national borders. Hence, strong cooperation of EAC Partner States to implement well-coordinated animal disease prevention and control programmes are urgently needed. These programmes are to follow a One Health approach. The EAC Secretariat plays an important role of coordination the planning and implementation of joint cross-border animal disease prevention and control activities.

The 'One Health' approach considers interdependencies and interactions between all sectors and disciplines which are affected by an outbreak of an infectious disease or other event of public health concern, which can contribute to preventing and to mitigating it. Sectors involved include, but are not limited to human and animal health, environment and climate, agriculture and wildlife, trade and tourism and defense, communities and the media.

The Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania are neighboring countries in the EAC with a history of animal disease outbreaks due to cross-border movement of livestock. Therefore, both EAC Partner States agreed to develop and sign a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation and Implementation of Cross-Border Measures to Prevent and Control TADs and Zoonoses.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIZ Global Programme on Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health (GP PPOH) supports strengthening the One Health approach in the EAC region to the prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses. Thereby, it contributes to the overall efforts to implement the EAC One Health Strategy, 2022-2027.

In two technical meetings organized by the EAC Secretariat and facilitated by GP PPOH between August and December 2022, experts and political representatives in the area of animal and wildlife health as well as zoonoses from Uganda and Tanzania came together to develop and finalize a bilateral MoU.

The MoU aims at enhancing bilateral cooperation and coordination in the planning, implementation and monitoring of strategies to prevent, control, manage, eliminate, and eradicate TADs and zoonoses along the common border and other mutually agreed actions for at least five years. Final political approval of the bilateral MoU is expected in early 2023 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Scan the QR code above to find more information on the GP PPOH programme

c. Admin & Finance

Team



Name: Racheal Gatheca-Schild

Position: Senior Finance and Administration Manager

Main Tasks: Expenditure and budget monitoring, contract monitoring, external audit & quality control.



Name: Ruth Mwamwaja

Position: Administrative Specialist

Main Tasks: Procurement of services and goods, local subsidy contracts/financing agreements.



Name: Bestina Maiba

Position: Administrative Specialist

Main Tasks: Procurement of services, appraiser contracts.



Name: Amani Khassa

Position: Junior Administrative Specialist

Main Tasks: Support in accounting.



Name: Upendo Maeda

Position: Administrative Specialist

Main Tasks: Events and logistics.



Name: Rose Mtema
Position: Accounting Assistant
Main Tasks: Accounting.



Name: Zubeda Osman
Position: Junior Administrative Specialist
Main Tasks: Events and logistics.



Name: Donatien Ngomirakiza
Position: Administrative Specialist
Main Tasks: Financial services, accounting and controlling, procurement for MARKUP.



Name: Eliya Marco
Position: IT Specialist
Main Tasks: Support for the cluster on IT related issues, including hardware and software issues.



Name: Bosco Mlay
Position: Driver
Main Tasks: Driving and vehicle maintenance, support to AMA for private car registration, insurance, licensing etc.



Name: Getrude Kintu
Position: Support Staff
Main Tasks: Office maintenance.



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Arusha, February 2023



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