



Policybrief

JULY 2022

EAC LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS

The EAC region accounts for 3 percent of the world total bovine herd, 2 percent of the sheep herd and 5 percent of the goat herd: a good resource base for the production of hides and skins and for the development of a globally competitive leather and leather products industry. Presently, the EAC region processes leather up to wet blue stage with minimal transformation to finished leather. Between 80 to 90 percent of the wet blue leather is exported; only 10 percent remains for processing to finished-leather which caters for footwear and other leather products. The industry faces many challenges, including poor production and processing practices, resulting in variable quality, high value leakage, environmental contamination, and low investment. The EAC is addressing those challenges through the EAC Leather and Leather Products Strategy and Implementation Roadmap 2020-2030.

This policy brief highlights **key recommendations** for further support to the sector, which were derived from National Coordination Committee meetings in all EAC Partner States as well as the Regional Steering Committee Meeting with all National Focal Persons, which were all held in June/July 2022:

- ▶ Enhance appropriate Animal Nutrition support to the farmers.
- ▶ Campaign against the use of traditional branding / tattooing of animals and promote use of electronic animal tagging.
- ▶ Promote use of the right fraying technologies / mechanized fraying technologies.
- ▶ Promote investments in animal dips and vaccination calendars to enhance animal health.
- ▶ Promote investments in leather industrial parks with common effluent treatment plants (ETPs) for use by industries.
- ▶ Provide targeted / activity specific incentives to investments in tanneries (e.g., Tax deduction allowances, tax holiday, cheaper power, etc).
- ▶ Promote harmonisation of EAC standards on leather and footwear sectors.
- ▶ Support local manufacturers on investor readiness.
- ▶ Support establishment and operationalisation of Common Manufacturing facilities.
- ▶ Provide credit guarantee schemes to appropriate capital for MSMEs in the value chain.
- ▶ Support establishment of common research and development facilities e.g., moulding.
- ▶ Promote and institutionalise local procurement for uniformed market.



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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



The East African Community Leather and Leather Products Strategy and Implementation Roadmap 2020 - 2030

Vision: "An integrated and globally competitive leather and leather products industry"



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