

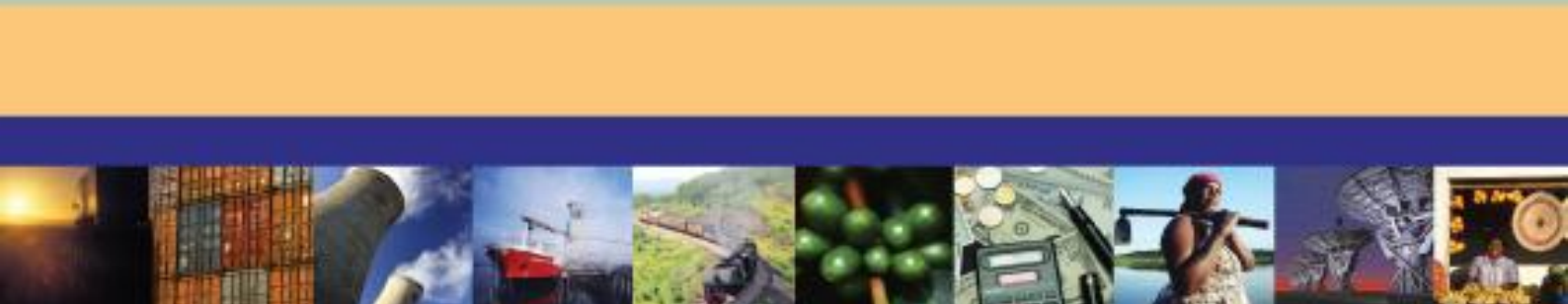


Regional Trade Facilitation Programme

DRAFT

WORK PROGRAMME

July 2006 – October 2007



Introduction

The Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP) was designed by DfID as a strategic response to the challenge of improving trade performance within the southern Africa region. Its particular focus has been on supporting measures to facilitate increased trade in Southern Africa for the benefit of the poor.

The contract to implement the RTFP was awarded to Imani Development International Limited (Imani) and implementation started at the beginning of 2004. The first annual output-to-purpose review (OPR) of the programme, to assess performance and propose options for change, took place at the beginning of 2005. As a result of this, the programme has since taken a more strategic and innovative approach (rather than administering projects generated by the key project partners). It has also now increased the focus on the link between trade and poverty.

One direct result of the recommendations of the first OPR has been the replacement of Accountable Grants (implemented through direct MoUs with DfID) by service provider contracts with the RTFP which has necessitated a change in the Programme Management Manual.

The second OPR was carried out in July 2006 and made several recommendations, among which were that more resources should be allocated to trade facilitation; to activities which impacted upon the South African trade regime and that there should be more engagement with the private sector. The OPR also recommended that the programme should be extended beyond its current lifespan (October 2007), preferably by two years.

Programme Objectives

The overall objective of the RTFP is to benefit the poor and contribute to poverty reduction, both indirectly by increasing economic opportunities in the region, and directly by focusing on trade constraints including those of particular importance to poor producers and small-scale traders. The purpose of the RTFP is to facilitate increased trade in Southern Africa for the benefit of the poor. The goal to which RTFP contributes is sustainable job creation and increased incomes for the poor.

The RTFP has relatively low levels of financial resources available to it and places the emphasis on the following:-

- i) To provide incremental assistance to regional organisations and countries in the eastern and southern Africa region to facilitate increased trade for the benefit of the poor. This will be done by providing technical assistance to support programmes initiated by the regional organisations and the countries in the eastern and southern Africa region, either using programme management staff, or long-term technical assistance or short-term technical assistance recruited specifically for the task.
- ii) Where possible, programmes will be implemented with another donor or financial institution, such as the EU, USAID, World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, African Development Bank, UN agencies and IMF. This will

not only allow a sharing of costs but will also improve donor co-ordination in the region.

- iii) To assist regional organisations and ESA countries to identify appropriate sources of finance for programmes on a larger scale which would assist in facilitating increased trade and to also assist eastern and southern Africa regional organisations and countries to access finances through assisting to prepare financing proposals in line with the guidelines of the appropriate financing institution or co-operating partner.
- iv) To make available all appropriate information on trade facilitation activities and instruments through one web portal (website) and keep this web portal up-dated for the duration of the RTFP implementation period.

During the period of the present work programme from July 2006 to October 2007, the programme will focus on supporting activities that will contribute to the realisation of the following outputs:

- Output 1 - Streamlined Customs/Border Procedures and Common Regional Transit System
- Output 2 - Pro-poor trade agreements negotiated at WTO and as part of EPAs
- Output 3 - Improved Functioning of Regional Trade Agreements (SADC, SACU, COMESA)
- Output 4 - Increased Participation by Local Communities in the Production and Export of Selected Pro-poor Commodities
- Output 5 - Improved Trade Policy Capacity

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES TO DELIVER OUTPUTS

Output 1 - Streamlined Customs/border Procedures and Common Regional Transit System

TA Inputs:

Programme Director, Programme Manager, COMESA Trade Policy Adviser and short term consultancies

Results:

- Study on Border Information Management System undertaken and consultations undertaken leading to establishment of One Stop Border Post (OSBP) on Zambia/Zimbabwe border at Chirundu.
- Studies on the legal framework for the OSBP at Lebombo-Ressano Garcia carried out and work started on design and implementation of standard operating procedures.
- Trial testing of SADC's transit management system; development of a risk management system (incorporating an electronic tracking system) as well as an electronic validation of customs documents system prepared for the SADC Regional Transit Bond Chain Guarantee system.

Purpose:

Border procedures throughout the region can be complex and cumbersome leading to increased (and uncompetitive) costs of trade. One stop border posts (OSBP) depend on rationalised procedures, reduced waiting times and are also a significant step towards the elimination of internal border controls this being a necessary feature of customs unions. RTFP will undertake activities in relation to support the establishment of at least two OSBPs.

Mandate:

Letter from COMESA, SADC Secretariat. Request from South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Activities:

Chirundu One-Stop Border Post:

To enhance customs efficiency and border passages, COMESA plans to introduce One-Stop Border Posts across the region beginning with a pilot project in Chirundu (the most heavily used border between Zambia and Zimbabwe and a conduit for substantial regional trade travelling to the north and east).

Following two meetings attended by relevant institutions that provide services at the border (the second of which was financed by RTFP in June 2006), a programme of action was drawn up under the guidance of a Steering Committee (which will be supported by various sectoral sub-committees). Under the present work programme, RTFP will finance the meetings of the Steering Committee and the sub-committees, technical inputs and meetings for stakeholders from both countries. The sub-committees will review the legal requirements; existing border procedures and infrastructure requirements.

Activities that will be implemented are mainly aimed at improving the flow of traffic and streamlining the clearing processes. Following recent investment in infrastructure on both sides of the border, new development work will be unnecessary. However, some infrastructure related work may be undertaken to facilitate IT connectivity for the Border Information Management System.

Zambia will need assistance to implement domestic legal reform to empower Customs officials to perform customs controls on foreign territory (Zimbabwe has already undertaken these reforms).

A study on a Border Information Management System will be undertaken to explore the possibility of developing a more versatile, robust and cost-effective system that offers additional facilities not currently available under ASYCUDA (which is in use in both countries).

Zambia is currently carrying out a Time Release Study (with funding from the USAID Southern Africa Hub) and the results of the Time Release Study will be used as a benchmark from which the effects of an OSBP can be measured. The Time Release Study should also be supplemented by the study being carried out by SAMP on small-scale cross-border trade.

South Africa – Mozambique (Lebombo/Ressano Garcia)

The Governments of South Africa and Mozambique have committed themselves to implementing a one stop border post at the Lebombo-Ressano Garcia Border Post (which is the second busiest in the region). Initially there will be a study for the development of a legal framework for the implementation of the OSBP which will also incorporate legal, operational and institutional arrangements for the actual operation of a joint border post. Work will need to be undertaken with the Government of Mozambique to implement domestic legal reform to enable Customs officials to perform customs controls on foreign territory (South Africa has already undertaken these reforms).

Further work will also be needed to design and implement Standard Operating Procedures.

A detailed plan of work is being developed by RTFP with the relevant authorities.

South Africa – Lesotho:

Activities on this post are not yet so well advanced as that on the South Africa – Mozambique border but SARS is expected to develop similar terms of reference for a legal framework study. SARS have themselves made a commitment to funding the hard infrastructure for Lesotho (such as the computer hardware).

Common Transit System:

SADC has developed a Regional Transit Bond Chain Guarantee System which will be pilot tested along the Durban and Beira corridors, with the support of the RTFP, prior to roll out to other corridors in the region. The project is divided into three components: trial testing of the transit management system; development of a risk management

system that incorporates an electronic tracking system and, finally, development of an electronic validation system of customs documentation.

The first component will include awareness and consensus-building workshops which will be held at both national and regional levels; registration / licensing of service providers by all participating countries; and realignment of national legislation, procedures, regulations, etc. These will be followed by review workshops. For the second and third components, a short term consultant(s) will be engaged to design a modern transit tracking system based on risk management and an electronic document validation system. It is anticipated that work on the three components will be synchronised to enable a complete transit management system to be tested.

Output 2 - Pro-poor trade agreements negotiated at WTO and as part of EPAs

TA Inputs:

Programme Director and short term consultancies

Results:

- Workshop held to develop all-ACP Rules of Origin for EPA negotiations
- Service needs assessment and GATS Template prepared for the ESA countries.
- LDCs group progresses in developing its proposals on NTBs, Trade Facilitation and Services

Purpose: Market access improved through successful negotiation of pro-poor trade programmes and policies.

Mandate: Letters from the Coordinating country of the LDC group as well as the Zambian Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (during its hand-over period as one of the Troika), requesting technical assistance inputs. For the EPA work; letters from COMESA Secretariat and SADC.

Activities:

Market access improved through successful negotiation of pro-poor trade programmes and policies:

The WTO LDC Group, with support from RTFP, have tabled a proposal on Duty Free Quota Free Market Access and Rules of Origin to the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session (CDTSS). In addition, the LDC Group is being supported on further development of the position on food aid and on trade facilitation. Work is also still on-going on Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework. Although the DDA negotiations are currently suspended, technical work still needs to be done to ensure that the LDC Group remains engaged and is adequately prepared for the restart of the negotiations.

Support to the LDC Group will be on a request basis and will mainly be in the form of technical assistance, either short-term technical assistance or inputs from the PMU.

SADC 7 & ESA negotiate EPAs, covering both trade and development, which are beneficial to the region:

The LTTA serving as the SADC Regional Integration and Trade Policy Adviser will continue to support the SADC EPA Unit with activities in the context of SADC/ESA coordination; the RPTF; the SADC EPA Negotiating forum and the SADC-EC technical teams.

During the previous work programme period RTFP financed two studies for the SADC EPA Unit on the development of EPA market access strategies for the BLNS countries and also a comprehensive review of the preparations and negotiation process. Work on these two studies will be completed during the current work programme period. The RTFP will continue to support related studies in response to the evolving situation.

Negotiations on EPAs in the ESA Group have been supported by the RTFP but the ESA Group has now made arrangements to get resources to continue the negotiations from the EDF9-financed Regional Integration Support Programme (RISP). The RTFP has gradually phased out its engagement in these negotiations, although it still plays an active part in the marine fisheries component of the negotiations and will carry out some work to look at the various options open to the ESA region as regards rules of origin or fish and fish products.

ACP group assisted to advance dialogue on EPA Rules of Origin during 2006

In order to contribute to the successful negotiation of EPAs, it was agreed that a single set of Rules of Origin should be prepared for the whole ACP region. An ACP RoO Group of Experts was formed and a study on RoO was commissioned and undertaken. The report was presented to the RoO Group of Experts who endorsed the report and made recommendations which were submitted to the technical follow up mechanism for EPA negotiations and the Council of ACP Ministers in June 2006 at their meeting in Papua New Guinea. At this meeting the Ministers decided that the ACP Group did not have enough time to negotiate all-ACP Rules of Origin and decided that Rules of Origin should be negotiated at the regional level on the basis of a template to be prepared by the ACP Secretariat. The ACP Secretariat has prepared a draft template which should now be finalized by the Group of Experts and co-opted experts on Rules of Origin. The RTFP is working with the ACP Secretariat on finalising the template and on follow-up work. Initially the RTFP will finance a workshop/seminar for all of the six negotiating regions which will provide a forum for finalising the template.

ESA countries have prepared a Services Needs Assessment and Developed a GATS Template by 2007

Since October 2004 COMESA Secretariat has been implementing a project on Trade in Services with a view to developing a GATS database with national templates on all the ESA countries; a Sectoral Assessment of Services and a regional report showing the extent of liberalisation. It is an ambitious project which has involved, among other things, the training and constitution of national teams to undertake the conversion of country regulations into GATS templates. The scale of the project and its complexity have resulted in delays and an extension of the deadline has been agreed with COMESA to enable it to be completed. Although there are no direct financial implications of the extension, the PMU will continue to provide support and expertise as required.

Output 3 - Improved Functioning of Regional Trade Agreements (SADC, SACU, COMESA)

TA Inputs: Programme Director, Programme Manager, SADC and COMESA Trade Policy Advisers and short term consultancies

Results:

- Technical papers and analyses prepared for the RTAs
- Regional Strategy Paper for the EDF 10 prepared for the Inter-Regional Coordinating Committee (COMESA, IOC, EAC & IGAD)
- COMESA Adjustment Facility established
- Secretariat support provided to the SADC/COMESA/EAC Task Force.
- The operations of COMESA Competition Commission begun.
- The SADC Regional Competition Policy drafted.
- The number of COMESA regional standards doubled.
- An NTB monitoring and reporting mechanism developed.

Purpose: Over the last 5 – 10 years, countries in the region have made steady progress in developing the instruments required to deepen and strengthen regional integration. This is required if countries are to benefit from larger markets and economies of scale associated with Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs). However, there is still a lot to be achieved and countries and regional organisations need technical assistance inputs in the resolution of trade disputes and in developing and implementing policies necessary for the effective functioning of RTAs which are pro-poor.

Mandate: Requests from the secretariats of SADC, SACU, COMESA and IRCC.

Activities:

Strategic support to SACU

RTFP has provided support to SACU through commissioning papers which have informed strategic discussions on its future direction. Prior to September 2006, it also financed the Intra-SACU trade data audit and further follow-on work is anticipated. RTFP will continue to respond to SACU for requests for strategic technical assistance.

Strategic support to COMESA

The Programme will provide support and technical assistance to COMESA as requested. RTFP has been co-opted by COMESA to assist it to prepare the ESA-IO Regional Strategy Paper and Regional Indicative Programme to be financed under EDF10. RTFP have prepared a number of drafts, based on inputs from COMESA, IOC, EAC, IGAD and the EC and it is anticipated that the final draft should be prepared and submitted by end-September 2006.

The RTFP has also made substantial inputs into the financing proposal, in the form of a contribution agreement, for the Regional Integration Budget Support (RIBS) programme

which is an adjustment facility which targets assistance to ESA countries implementing trade liberalisation programmes.

Both the LTTA and the PMU have made inputs into the strengthening of the COMESA FTA and in the design and structure of the COMESA Customs Union.

Strategic support to SADC:

In addition to the activities of the Trade Policy Adviser, attached to SADC Secretariat, who himself carries out work on strategic policy issues, the PMU will provide technical assistance to SADC Secretariat upon request thus expanding their access to an informed pool of expertise.

COMESA/SADC/EAC Task Force:

RTFP has been requested by the RIOs to provide secretariat services to the Task Force including servicing the various sub-committees and ministerial meetings; coordinating joint studies and providing technical input on a demand-driven basis.

COMESA Regional Competition Commission established

Following extensive consultative work, a report has been produced with detailed recommendations for the establishment of a COMESA Regional Competition Commission. The report recommends three full-time commissioners and six part-time commissioners in the first year expanding to an extensive complement of staff by year 5. The proposed staffing levels are ambitious but even if the proposed levels cannot be fully financed, a Competition Commission will be established and will benefit from RTFP support in the initial phase of its establishment.

SADC Regional Competition Policy drafted

In 2004 TRALAC prepared a proposal for the development of a regional competition policy for SADC. Although work did not proceed on it at the time, there is renewed pressure as a result of which national and regional competition reviews could be carried out. RTFP remains committed to support the development of a regional competition policy for SADC which complements policies already in existence at the national and regional levels.

Alternatives to trade taxes as sources of revenue

As trade taxes are eroded through the process of trade liberalisation, countries in the region are coming under increasing pressure to find alternative ways to finance public sector activities. Although it is difficult to envisage how governments can replace tariff income with other sources of tax revenue, and with a broadening of the tax base, the RTFP will explore the various options and opportunities open to countries in the region.

Addressing issues of overlapping memberships to RIOs

The issue of overlapping membership of Regional Integration Organisations is a topic that countries in the region cannot avoid to address. There is pressure from the AU and from within the RIOs themselves, as well as from partners, in particular through the EPA negotiations for countries to pronounce themselves. There is also a lot of misinformation being circulated on the issue of overlapping memberships. The RTFP will continue to be a part of the debate and will provide information, as opposed to opinions, at both national and regional levels.

Number of regional standards doubled

One constraint to the expansion of cross-border trade is the lack of enforceable and harmonised regional standards. Since 2003 COMESA states have agreed 206 harmonised standards whilst another 100 were under consideration during implementation of the previous work programme. RTFP will assist COMESA to increase the number of standards agreed upon (with the private sector having a greater contribution in prioritising the order in which they are harmonised); make mandatory standards legally binding and create more awareness of the existence of harmonised standards.

Monitoring and Reporting on Trade and NTBs:

The RTFP is supporting a workshop for SADC that will review the inventories of NTBs, compiled with RTFP assistance during 2004, leading to the development of an action plan for monitoring and elimination of the NTBs in the SADC region. In addition, the RTFP will assist the development of an elaborate mechanism that will assist all RIO (EAC, SADC and COMESA) in the southern and eastern Africa region to identify and report on the existence of NTBs and formulate a system for eliminating offensive NTBs. This work will be coordinated through the COMESA/EAC/SADC Task Force.

Small scale cross border trade takes place on a much greater scale, and contributes larger amounts of revenue, than is readily acknowledged. The Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) has been contracted to undertake a survey of 20 borders to establish the profile of the traders; volumes, values, origins and destinations of the goods; type of transport used; time taken to clear the border and other factors which inhibit smooth and profitable trading. The information gathered was originally intended to provide baseline data for the monitoring of RTFP's impact, however, owing to delays the first surveys were only undertaken in the third quarter of 2006 so the information gathered will not be used as a baseline to assess performance of RTFP. However, the information obtained will be useful to gain a better understanding of the small-scale trader sector and follow-on work is planned which is based on supplementing the SAMP survey results.

Output 4 - Increased Participation by Local Communities in the Production and Export of Selected Pro-poor Commodities

TA Inputs: Programme Director, Programme Manager and short term consultancies

Results:

- The doubling of coffee imports to South Africa from the region from 3,000 to 6,000 tonnes by the end of 2007.
- Increased exports of smallholder-produced macadamia and cashew nuts as well as the exportation of 800 tonnes of fair-trade groundnuts by 2007.
- Incomes of gatherers of natural products will be doubled and exports doubled.
- A marketing action plan for Devil's Claw produced and new markets identified.

Purpose: To assist with the diversification of products traded in the region and to develop regional and international markets in specific products.

Mandate: Requests from private sector or non-governmental organisations which have received approval from the Executive Committee or PMU, prior to the development of agreed work programmes.

Activities:

Trade and Market Expansion Programme for African Coffees in the South African Market:

This project aims to increase the market share of African coffee in South Africa since the vast majority of coffee consumed in South Africa is of a very poor quality and what is sold as instant coffee has a 25% coffee content, with the remaining mixture comprising 25% chicory and 50% dextrose. RTFP is supporting the East Africa Fine Coffee Association (EAFCA), which is also financed by the USAID-funded RATES programme, to hold awareness-raising and media events in the three main cities of South Africa following which a local chapter of EAFCA was formed. Public relations activities will be followed up to maintain the burgeoning interest whilst marketing efforts will focus on the small, speciality coffee roasters.

TWIN – Capturing Value for Smallholder Nut Producers in Southern Africa through Fairtrade Nut Market Access:

RTFP has worked with TWIN during the previous work programme period to maximise the potential of southern African (Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia) smallholder producers of cashew, macadamia and ground nuts in exporting fair-trade nuts. As a result of this project it is hoped that increased sales and market access to premium markets and into South Africa will be realised with a diversified range of incomes for the farmers. The nut producers' influence and capacity for representation is also expected to increase.

The first two Periods of the programme were implemented as follows:

- Period 1: To increase market awareness of and trading opportunities for the Fairtrade nut producers.
- Period 2: Capacity building to develop and implement supply chain and quality management systems.

Period 1 has been successfully completed and this has led to approval of a contract with TWIN for the second period which is currently being implemented. Successful completion of this will, in turn, lead to approval of period 3, 4 and 5 (the latter period being for an audit of the project prior to its closure).

Period 3 aims to increase the consultation and producer participation in the Fairtrade nut value chain by developing and agreeing final plans with partners which will be finalised under Period 4 and submitted to funding agencies. Work will continue with groundnut producers on aflatoxin management, along with quality systems and traceability management. In period 3, work with macadamia and cashew producers will step up. Activities will focus on quality issues and new product development as well as price mechanism training.

Period 4 aims to increase the number of southern African Fairtrade nut producers and expand their market access by identifying key partners and supporting their efforts towards Fairtrade certification (it is envisaged that up to three new associations will receive Fairtrade certification). Finally, a network of potential partners will be established.

Natural Products: Trade Component of the Natural Futures Programme

During 2006, RTFP-commissioned a consultant to undertake a study of the Natural Products sector in order to redesign and strengthen the trade component of a project proposal submitted by the IUCN.

The study, which was carried out by the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of UK, found that the market opportunity for natural products was much larger than previously believed, with related implications for export earnings and job creation. The study also looked at specific natural products and their potential uses as well as trade and marketing issues.

The IUCN drew on this study to develop a programme for the Trade component which will be substantially carried out during the period of the present programme (although preparatory work has begun with the recruitment of a Trade Specialist).

The Trade component of the Natural Futures programme will substantially expand appreciation of the untapped potential for growth in trade in natural products by policy-makers from the southern Africa region. Project activities will seek to address international trade policy issues and marketing, logistical and other constraints hampering the growth of natural products exports from southern Africa. The project will specifically aim to get one specific item (baobab) through the EU regulatory regime and will pilot trade standards for at least one product whilst also raising awareness on standards issues and developing skills to apply and certify internationally recognised standards. Generic traceability recommendations will be developed which will be aimed at emerging natural product sector entrepreneurs. Environmental issues are fundamental to this project which will contribute to wider dissemination and understanding of the issues (with the preparation of an environmental assessment manual).

Trade in Devil's Claw:

In 2003 a group of government and non-state representatives formed the Devil's Range State Working Group (DRSWG) comprising representatives from the Kalahari eco-zone: Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The group represents the interests of approximately 10,000 gatherers of Devil's Claw in southern Africa who are among the poorest and most vulnerable of communities and the overall objective of the present project is to promote their improved livelihoods through enhancements in the value chain for their product.

Following protracted discussions with the DRSWG, a consultant was contracted to redesign the terms of reference for a Feasibility Study. The revised TOR were completed in 2006 and implementation of the project has already commenced.

An expanded range of activities that will redress the declining viability for devil's claw through addressing institutional and regulatory issues negatively affecting sales and identifying the causes of falling prices. Fair trade in Devil's Claw will be considered along with the identification of new markets. Furthermore, using Devil's Claw as an example, the project will aim to understand the power and governance in natural product value chains and will recommend activities to develop policy and trade negotiation coherence.

Output 5 - Improved Trade Policy Capacity

TA Inputs: Programme Director, Programme Manager and short term consultancies

Results:

- Research studies commissioned, published and disseminated.
- Trade negotiation skills developed through regional workshops.
- Postgraduate students at TRALAC supported and informed.
- The capacity of tax experts increased during two workshops.
- COMESA tax database up and running.

Purpose: To increase the capacity of regional organisations and their member states to undertake policy analysis which will inform and develop their negotiating skills as well as expanding the ability of regional research institutions to respond to the demands.

Mandate: Requests from SADC, COMESA and regional research bodies.

Activities:

Trade negotiation and policy analysis skills developed:

Through the attachment of the Long Term Trade Advisers (LTTAs) to the two Secretariats of SADC and COMESA, trade negotiation and policy analysis skills will be developed through day-to-day interactions. Both LTTAs also carry out specific functions relating to the negotiation of EPAs; the improved management of the COMESA and SADC FTAs; the development of the Customs Unions; issues relating to NTBs; WTO issues; regional competition issues, etc.

By sharing technical knowledge and skills with the RIOs, the PMU will also contribute to the development of a cadre of regional negotiators and policy-makers.

Dialogue, research and knowledge base on international and regional trade issues increased:

External research institutions and consultants will be commissioned to undertake research studies to contribute to the body of knowledge on regional trade issues. These studies will feed into specific programmes (such as the negotiation of EPAs) supported under the RTFP work programme. The resulting studies will be disseminated on the RTFP website and will be published in hard copy and widely distributed.

Regional capacity will also be developed at workshops and seminars by taking advantage of the information acquired whilst carrying out the research studies to expand the regional knowledge base. One such activity will be the hosting of in-country meetings for national parliamentarians so that their understanding of the implications of EPA negotiations, and the related processes, is increased.

Two regional post-graduate students are currently benefiting from RTFP-financed scholarships and the facility exists for further such sponsorships. In addition, regional institutions and teaching faculties may be supported, either financially or through the provision of RTFP in-house technical expertise, to carry out focussed activities such as training on subjects of relevance to trade negotiation and facilitation.

The PMU will continue to attend regional and international workshops and seminars and to prepare and present papers of relevance to the RTFP at these workshops and seminars. In addition, RTFP will continue to write articles for other publications, on request, if these articles are considered relevant to the overall activities of the RTFP.

During the work programme period the RTFP website will be upgraded and redesigned so that it is a more effective dissemination tool. In addition, further studies which have been undertaken, or which will be undertaken, will be published.

Tax experts trained

The programme of support to the SADC Tax harmonisation programme will come to an end following the conclusion of the SADC Tax Policy adviser's contract at the end of 2006 but workshops to develop the skills of revenue officials in the region will be continued during the period remaining. A VAT benchmarking study to provide SADC with an analysis of areas of common concern or where common interventions might be undertaken will be carried out by an external consultant in coordination with the Tax Policy adviser. A meeting will be held subsequently to discuss the results.

COMESA Tax database established:

COMESA will be provided with a short term I.T. expert to establish the tax database using tax data that is already publicly available from the IMF.

RTFP WORK PROGRAMME BUDGET

July 2006 - October 2007

	GBP	Overall GBP
Output 1		
Border procedures & transit system		
Chirundu OSBP	200,000	
SA-Moz & SA-Lesotho OSBPs	300,000	
Common transit system	300,000	800,000

Output 2		
Negotiation of pro-poor trade policies	150,000	
ACP Rules of Origin	150,000	
EPAs	100,000	400,000

Output 3:		
Support to SACU	60,000	
Support to COMESA	50,000	
Support to SADC	50,000	
COM/SAD/EAC Task Force	150,000	
SADC Competition Policy	50,000	
COMESA Competition Commission	100,000	
Tax policy component of FIP	20,000	
Alternatives to trade taxes	50,000	
Regional standards -COMESA	200,000	
NTB monitoring & reporting mech	250,000	980,000

Output 4:		
Trade in Pro-poor commodities		
EAFCFA Coffee	40,000	
TWIN	160,000	
IUCN Natural Futures	120,000	
Devils Claw	80,000	400,000

Output 5:		
Improved trade capacity		
Trade neg & policy skills developed	100,000	
Knowledge base increased	350,000	
Workshops for parliamentarians	100,000	
Tax policy skills developed	60,000	610,000

OVERALL TOTAL**3,190,000**

