



## The Role of Civil Society in SADC EPA Implementation



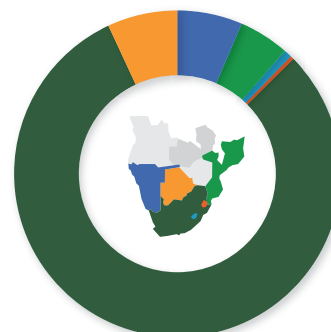
The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, South Africa, hosted a one-day policy advisory group seminar – in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) South Africa – on 17 July 2018 on the theme “South Africa, the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement, and Regional Integration in Southern Africa”.

The seminar brought together approximately 30 multi-sector stakeholders to discuss the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – signed in June 2016 – between the European Union (EU) and six Southern African Development Community (SADC) states (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland).

One of the central aims of the meeting was to provide a platform for critical and constructive engagement between stakeholders, including civil society.

The seminar highlighted a number of ways in which civil society can play a key role in ensuring the EPA's successful implementation.

### SADC Group's exports to the European Union



COUNTRY	TOP PRODUCTS	TOP MARKETS
<b>South Africa</b> <b>80%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor vehicles</li> <li>Platinum</li> <li>Centrifuges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> <li>Netherlands</li> </ul>
<b>Botswana</b> <b>7%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diamonds</li> <li>Meat</li> <li>Insulated wire or cable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belgium</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> <li>France</li> </ul>
<b>Namibia</b> <b>6%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copper, unrefined</li> <li>Fish</li> <li>Diamonds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belgium</li> <li>Italy</li> <li>Germany</li> </ul>
<b>Mozambique</b> <b>5%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unwrought Aluminium</li> <li>Aluminium bars and rods</li> <li>Unmanufactured tobacco</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Netherlands</li> <li>Italy</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> </ul>
<b>Lesotho</b> <b>1%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diamonds</li> <li>Women's clothing</li> <li>Dried fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belgium</li> <li>France</li> <li>Germany</li> </ul>
<b>Swaziland</b> <b>negligible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sugar</li> <li>Scents/essences used in manufacturing</li> <li>Fruits and nuts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spain</li> <li>Italy</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> </ul>

Data source - Trademap, 2018; Tralac, and Wesgro  
<https://www.tralac.org/documents/events/info/2046-eu-sadc-epa-booklet-tralac-wesgro-july-2018/file.html>

## ■ Information Dissemination

Civil society groups were initially excluded from the negotiations that informed the SADC EPA, resulting in widespread distrust regarding the agreement. However, civil society is uniquely placed to unpack the complex details of the SADC EPA through research projects and information dissemination initiatives. This will ensure the ability of marginalised groups, including grassroots populations, small-scale farmers, and small and medium-sized enterprises, to meaningfully participate in implementation.

## ■ Dialogue

Civil society plays a key role in promoting multi-sector dialogue and coordination between stakeholders. This is done through the organisation of technical-training workshops, seminars, and roundtable discussions. Civil society needs to advocate for appropriate mechanisms and funding that will allow it to engage actively and critically in the implementation process.



THE SADC-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT HIGH-LEVEL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM HELD IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, IN OCTOBER 2017.

Photo - SADC-EU EPA Outreach South Africa  
Image source - Tralac  
<https://www.tralac.org/events/calendar-items/12288-sadc-eu-epa-high-level-civil-society-forum-johannesburg-16-october-2017.html>

## ■ Capacity-Building

Small and medium-sized producers often lack the knowledge and expertise to effectively use trade agreements and access domestic, regional, and international markets. Civil society can cooperate with other actors, such as business and government, to build the capacity of small and medium-sized producers to exploit the SADC EPA. The capacity-building agenda should address the relevant needs of these producers, including knowledge of EU health and safety standards as well as EU markets, preferential tariff rate quotas, and adequate representation during trade negotiations.

## ■ Monitoring and Evaluation

The EPA does not detail how implementation is to be monitored and evaluated in order to identify relevant opportunities and challenges. It is vital that civil society fill the vacuum, ensuring that the implementation proceeds with transparency and accountability. Civil society needs to critically assess the EPA's impact on sustainable and inclusive development, environmental justice, and regional integration.



THE COVER OF THE BOOKLET DEVELOPED BY WESGRO AS A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE SADC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.

Image source - Global Africa Network  
<http://www.globalafricanetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/EU-SADC-EPA-booklet-Wesgro-Tralac.pdf>



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