

### **Regional Integration Cluster**

**Olivier Hartmann - SSATP** 

#### The process

- The technical content of the cluster is developed by the REC TCC partners:
  - \* RECs
  - \* Corridors
  - \* Regional organizations
  - \* Development partners
- Takes into account other regional programs:
  - To build on SSATP specific strengths and value added
  - To explicit linkages and synergies with partner programs
- \* Further defining the cluster requires the input of the policy level

#### March 2012 in Mombasa

• REC TCC identified main topics to include

#### October 2012 in Cotonou

• REC TCC reviews and expands the draft

#### December 2012

• AGM (policy level countries and RECs) provides further input on priorities

#### During 2013

• Further consultations to finalize the cluster organization



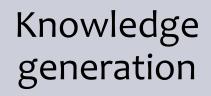
# Definition of the cluster passed through stages

- Identification of the focus areas initially recognized two groups:
  - Interventions relevant at continental level (such as corridor performance metrics framework, cooperation and coordination)
  - Interventions relevant at corridor level, focusing on the efficiency of the corridor components (gateway and nodes, transport modes, Customs and integration agenda)
- The focus was on the 'soft' issues, not infrastructure

- During a second phase, the interventions were reviewed through the filter of the SSATP cycle:
  - Knowledge creation
  - \* Knowledge sharing
  - \* Knowledge application
- \* The cluster adopted a wider definition of access to markets:
  - \* International markets along corridors
  - Intra-regional markets (small scale trade across borders and agricultural products from rural areas)



# Thematic areas and the three steps cycle



Corridor Performance metrics

Think tank

#### Knowledge sharing

Coordination Corridors, RECs, developments partners

Cooperation

Knowledge application

Corridor logistics (Trade agenda, Nodes, Modes)

Intra-regional logistics (Rural logistics, Small scale cross border trade)



# Knowledge generation

- \* Corridor performance metrics:
  - This builds on the legacy of SSATP for transport observatories and diagnosis tools
  - Consolidation of metrics across corridors to monitor the progress of the trade growth agenda of the African Union
  - \* Three priority areas with linkages across pillars, towards implementation:
    - Continued expansion and refinement of the transport observatory toolbox
    - \* Continued technical support to existing and planned transport observatories
- \* Think tank:
  - Analytical work on emerging trends and issues in the trade facilitation arena



# Knowledge sharing

#### \* Cooperation

- Focus on exchange of experience, valuing African expertise taking advantage of the more advanced level of some regions compared to others
- \* Two target groups:
  - \* Technical level: provision of short term expertise from another partner (REC / Corridor / Country / Regional organization / Operator)
  - \* Policy level: organizing sensitization / study tours (proof is in seeing)
- Coordination
  - Support the emergence of a coherent program across development partners, RECs, countries and corridor authorities
  - The REC TCC proved to be catalytic in promoting a vibrant dialogue within the regional integration community



## **Knowledge** application

- The rationale for application is that advocacy may not be sufficient: demonstration programs and pilots are important to establish proof of concept
- \* For Regional Integration, two focus domains for application:
  - Corridor logistics (trunk network / high volumes)
    - \* Trade agenda (Customs and trade integration)
    - \* Transport modes (efficiency of operators, multimodal)
    - \* Nodes (gateways, platforms and dry ports)
  - Intra-regional logistics (rural and feeder network / small scale trade)
    - \* Logistics services for small loads, capacity building for economic operators, dedicated regimes



### New stage: the policy angle

- \* Shift from an activity centric vision to a strategic orientation vision entailing series of activities
- \* The 'soft' agenda covers three main policy areas:
  - \* Instruments for Regional integration
  - Regulatory framework for efficient logistics services provision
  - Framework for regional integration policy setting institutions



#### Instruments for Regional integration

- \* Instruments for Regional integration
- Ensure consistent and coherent transcription at national level of regional integration instruments
- \* Knowledge creation
  - \* Gap analysis in country and regional integration instruments
- Knowledge sharing
  - \* Dialogue between regional and national stakeholders
- \* Knowledge application
  - Support to policy development and transcription



Regulatory framework for efficient logistics services provision

- Develop a regulatory framework conducive to efficient service provision by (private) logistics operators
- \* Content, scope, and difficulty varies according to category of operator
  - \* Road transport, railways, terminal operators, clearing & forwarding agents, etc.
- \* At knowledge creation level, implies understanding the activity from the operator perspective
- \* At knowledge sharing level, implies consultations with all stakeholders to reach a consensus on the content of the regulatory framework and on the conditions of its implementation
- At knowledge application level, implies defining the policies regulating access to profession (professional and technical capability), access to market (market regulation), capacity building for operators and regulatory agencies



# Framework for regional integration policy setting institutions

- Develop institutional mechanisms and tools that build capacity within institutions in order to enable definition and implementation of evidence based policies through inclusive policy dialogue
  - \* Options for institutional framework (corridor management authorities)
  - Monitoring and diagnosis tools (transport observatories)
- Knowledge creation
  - Transport Observatories
  - Institutional framework
- Knowledge sharing
  - Inclusive policy dialogue among all types of stakeholders
- Knowledge application
  - Institution building for effective policies



#### What to do this session?

- We are here to listen to answers, not to respond to questions
- \* Is there something that does not belong in this cluster?
- \* Is there something critical missing?
  - \* Should it be in the specific needs cluster instead?
- \* Which partners are relevant for this cluster?
- \* How far should we go along the priorities?
- \* How should we continue the consultation process?

