Who We Are

Africa’s leading transport policy development forum

With the goal of ensuring that all Africans have access to, and are served by, safe, sustainable and reliable transport systems, SSATP actively partners with African member countries, development partners, regional economic communities, and other private and public sector organizations to address the main policy issues hindering the region’s transport sector.

Currently implementing its Third Development Plan - a multi-year work program (2015-2019) focused on regional integration, urban mobility, and road safety - SSATP is at the forefront of Africa’s transport reforms, driving deep-rooted policy changes and capacity building programs that are paving the path to a safer, more integrated, and sustainable transport system in Africa.

Since its launch over 30 years ago, SSATP has built a reputation as the transport policy arm of the African Union Commission and the leading transport policy development forum in Africa, with a strong convening and networking power capable of sensitizing and mobilizing policy makers at the highest-levels of government.
Our History
A program with African roots

SSATP’s story began with a small group of African countries and international development partners who were deeply troubled by the poor condition of Africa’s road networks. Despite having invested billions of dollars in expanding their road networks after independence, few African countries had enough money to maintain them.

To address this pressing challenge, a founding group of nine African countries met with the World Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in 1987 to set up what would later become the Africa Transport Policy Program, which today comprises 41 African member countries.

What We Believe
Sound transport policies unlock Africa’s pathway to sustainable growth

A well-functioning transport sector is key to advancing Africa’s development efforts. At the heart of critical development challenges, the transport sector is crucial to reducing poverty, boosting prosperity, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. But, African countries have yet to seize the huge socio-economic opportunities that improved transport connectivity can unlock.

By facilitating the development of sound transport policies and related capacity building programs, SSATP bridges the gap between theory and practice to ensure access to safe, reliable, and sustainable transport for all Africans. More specifically, SSATP’s work focuses on:

- Advising countries on transport policy and strategy development
- Coordinating initiatives and sponsoring links between global and African institutions
- Building capacity through training programs and the establishment of institutional frameworks
- Supporting transport-related research and knowledge creation
- Sharing good practices and lessons learned through publications and conferences
- Advocating for sustainable policy solutions to transport challenges in Africa

“... For Africa to reach its Agenda 2063 goals, the necessary transport infrastructure needs to be in place, especially to support the continent’s accelerated integration, technological transformation, trade, development and growth. The African Union Commission (AUC) plays a critical role in the Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP) by delivering on the..."
Africa's Transport Challenges
As seen through the lens of Africans

As a continental program, SSATP leverages a user-centric approach to identify and address the transport challenges that African people face daily. Based on consultations with African member countries and their strategic priorities, SSATP selected regional integration, urban mobility, and road safety as the main areas of intervention under its Third Development Plan.

- 650 people die on Africa's roads daily
- 50% of Africans will live in cities by 2030
- 40% of the final price of goods in Africa is due to high transport costs

Our Donors & Partners
With a convening power capable of mobilizing policymakers at the highest levels, SSATP partners with 41 African countries, 8 regional economic communities, continental institutions, development partners, and public and private sector organizations to address the main policy issues hindering Africa's transport sector.

Learn more
ABOUT US (cont...)

Meet Our Team
The SSATP Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of the SSATP work plan and related activities. The team works in collaboration with an independent panel of experts and thematic working groups, and operates out of World Bank offices located in Bamako (Mali), Nairobi (Kenya) and Washington DC (US).
Why Partner With Us?
Message from SSATP's Program Manager

There is a real consensus among all stakeholders on the unique mission of SSATP as a continental platform for experience and knowledge sharing, and the key role it plays as both a convener and leader in transport policy advocacy.

Over the last three decades, SSATP has been recognized as a leader for effectively supporting a wide range of member countries in designing sound transport policies and strategies and developing the capabilities of their transport practitioners.

This would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of SSATP’s 41 member countries, the financial support of its development partners (most notably the European Union, the Swiss Secretariat of Economic Affairs, the African Development Bank, the Agence Française de Développement, and the World Bank), and the strong ownership of African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. This joint effort and collaborative spirit forms
DONORS & PARTNERS

Our Donors & Partners

Institutional Partners

Member Countries
Want to be a Member Country?

Participate in Africa's Leading Transport Forum

To become a member country and participate in SSATP's Annual General Assembly, national governments are requested to:

1. Officially state their intention to become an SSATP member country.
2. Commit to work towards the achievement of SSATP's Third Development Plan goals.
3. Help carry out SSATP's mandate.

Contact us at ssatp@worldbank.org for additional information.
Changing the Story
OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION
IN AFRICA

Africa's Connectivity Challenge
Fragmentation into small-scale economies

Despite a slight improvement in the past ten years, Africa remains fragmented. Cross-border movements suffer from long delays and cumbersome procedures at borders, arbitrary transit tariffs, transport restrictions, and a lack of security for transport users. As a result, intraregional and international transport is costly, uncertain, and slow, thereby hindering trade. The situation is worst for Africa's 16 landlocked countries where transport prices account for 15 to 20 percent of import costs. Estimates indicate that reducing transport costs could lead to a whopping 25 percent increase in trade.

- 40% of the final price of goods in Africa is due to high transport costs
- Intra-African trade is a mere 15% compared to 61% in Asia and 67% in Europe
- 56% above the world average: the cost to import a container in Africa
A preventable public health crisis and epidemic

Growing vehicle ownership and rapid urbanization have increased the incidence of road crashes in Africa. Despite being the least motorized region, it has the highest road traffic fatality rates in the world: 2.6 per 100,000 people. This translates to 650 deaths per day, nearly half of which involve vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. The socioeconomic impacts of road crashes and related injuries are not only harming the continent’s development, but also affecting the livelihood of countless African families.

- 3% of GDP lost in most countries due to road crashes
- 650 people die on Africa’s roads on a daily basis
- 39% of road deaths in Africa are among pedestrians
Africa's Rapid Urbanization Challenge
Increasingly congested cities with poor urban and transport planning

Over the last two decades, urbanization in Africa has grown at an average of 4.5% per year. It is projected that by 2050, Africa will be home to an additional 300 million urban residents. Faced with fast-growing urbanization and motorization rates, providing a sustainable response to Africa's growing urban transport and mobility needs will be a struggle for most African cities, which are already struggling to control air pollution and keep up with the growing urban transport and mobility needs of its citizens.

- Over 60% of African people will live in urban areas by 2050
- Growing by 4.5% annually, Africa is the world's fastest urbanizing continent
- 80% of Africa's urban dwellers don't have a motor vehicle, but this is changing quickly
Where We Work
Paving the Way for Sustainable Transport in 41 African Countries

With the ultimate goal of ensuring all Africans have access to, and are served by, safe, sustainable, and reliable transport systems, SSATP supports its 41 member countries with achieving just that. SSATP members include:


South Africa recently expressed interest in joining SSATP as a member country and will be confirmed at SSATP’s Annual General Assembly taking place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on November 29, 2019.

The impressive growth in the number of African countries signing up and committing to SSATP membership validates the Program’s value proposition, gaining deep respect among the transport community as a powerful instrument for promoting and accelerating Africa’s transport sector.
NEWS

SSATP
Africa Transport Policy Program

NEWS

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Winners of ARSO's #Roads4Life Storytelling Contest
African Road Safety Observatory
Fighting Road Fatalities
NEWS (cont...)

Winners of ARSO’s #Roads4Life Storytelling Contest

November 13, 2019

Congratulations #Roads4Life Champions! The winners of the African Road Safety Observatory’s #Roads4Life storytelling contest are: Road safety leadership: Roads for Life in Zimbabwe Innovations for...

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African Road Safety Observatory

September 27, 2019

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP, an international partnership administered by the World Bank) with the support of South Africa’s Road Traffic...

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Fighting Road Fatalities

September 26, 2019

Road traffic injuries present major health and development challenges to countries all over the world, but especially in Africa. For example, in Uganda, at least 10 people die daily on Kampala roads...

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#Roads4Life Storytelling Contest

July 01, 2019

If you are 18 and over, passionate about road safety, and carrying out great work to make Africa’s roads safer, we want to hear your story! Join the African Road Safety Observatory’s #Roads4Life...

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Interview with Mr. Franz R. Drees-Gross for Africities 8th Summit

November 20, 2018

Mr. Drees-Gross was interviewed as part of a series leading to the Africities 8th Summit that will be held in Marrakech, Morocco on November 20-24, 2018. The complete interview can be found on the...

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Road Management Tools

January 01, 2009

SSATP has reviewed a range of various tools available for managing road networks. The manual provides a guide aimed at politicians and high-level decision makers in road authorities, as well as...

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Road Safety

Building Knowledge that Works

Road Agencies
EVENTS

Zimbabwe Hosts SSATP’s 2019 Annual General Meeting in Victoria Falls

Second Road Safety Leadership Program - February 4-8, 2019

First African Road Safety Forum in Marrakech
MULTIMEDIA

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Regional Integration

*West and central africa trucking competitiveness*

The landlocked countries in West & Central Africa are characterized by large trade imbalances, with export-import ratios below 30 percent, and an overwhelming reliance on road transport. While...

June 13, 2018

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Regional Integration

*Container terminal concession guide*

Two African port associations, the Port Management Association for West Africa and Central Africa (PMAWCA) and the Port Management Association for East Africa and Southern Africa (PMAESA), with the...

June 28, 2017

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Urban Access & Mobility

*Policies for Sustainable Accessibility and Mobility in Urban Areas of*

Africa is urbanizing at a very high pace, and both large and intermediate African cities are experiencing rapid and often unplanned growth. As a result, policy- and decision-makers face numerous...

June 23, 2015