



# ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

## SADC COOPERATION IN ACCREDITATION (SADCA)



<b>CONTENTS</b>	
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MISSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. SADCA</b>	<b>5 - 12</b>
1.1 General	
1.2 Executive Committee Meetings	
1.3 NAFFPs	
1.4 SADCA Training	
1.5 AFRAC	
1.6 SADCA Members	
1.7 NAFFPs	
1.8 Farewell note to Mrs Marie Chilcott	
<b>2. DONOR FUNDING</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1 NORAD, Norway	
2.2 PTB, Germany	
2.3 The South African dti	
2.4 SADC SQAM / EU Project	
<b>3. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 IAAC Meetings	
3.2 ILAC and IAF Meetings	
<b>4. MARKETING AND PUBLICITY</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 Newsletters	
<b>5. FUTURE PLANS</b>	<b>16</b>

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFRAC	Inter African Accreditation Cooperation
APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
BoD	Board of Directors
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
EA	European Cooperation for Accreditation
EU	European Union
ExCo	Executive Committee
IAAC	Inter American Accreditation Cooperation
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
MAURITAS	Mauritius Accreditation Service
MBC	Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation
MLA	Multi Lateral Agreement /or Arrangement
NAFP	National Accreditation Focal Point
NLA	National Laboratory Association
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PAC	Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
PMC	Project Management Committee
PTB	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADCA	Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation
SADCAS	Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service
SANAS	South African National Accreditation System
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SQAM	Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>the dti</b>	The South African Department of Trade and Industry

## MISSION

The Technical Barriers to Trade Annex to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Trade in Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) in SADC, requires the establishment of cooperation in accreditation, called SADCA.

The main objectives of SADCA are to:

- ❖ Implement a regional system of cooperation in the area of accreditation, which complies with international best practices;
- ❖ Promote and facilitate the use of accreditation in the removal of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs);
- ❖ Identify aspects critical to the establishment and functioning of a regional accreditation infrastructure.

SADCA will encourage the development of accreditation services within its region, with the objective of having mutual recognition arrangements concluded between accreditation bodies on a multi-lateral basis.

It will also work towards the achievement of international recognition of its own competence to manage a multilateral recognition arrangement within SADC.

In undertaking these developments it will comply with the international procedures for the evaluation of accreditation bodies.

Where international procedures do not exist, other existing regional procedures will be considered prior to the development of SADCA procedures.

## 1. SADCA

### General

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual SADC SQAM meetings were held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 20 – 25 April 2009, and were officially opened by the guest of honour, her Excellency the Deputy High Commissioner for South Africa, Ms Liezel Castleman. In her address to the delegates the Deputy High Commissioner highlighted the role played by SQAM in industrial development and trade facilitation and called on the SQAM practitioners to translate their technical but important subject matter into a language that even the common person on the street would understand.

The Deputy High Commissioner referred to the current economic problems faced by the whole world and warned how some approaches to solve the problems could leave out the importance of harmonised standards and technical regulation framework as the basis for smooth movement of goods in a free trade area (FTA) and customs union (CU).

She commended the recent passing of the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade by the Ministers of Trade and Industry and noted how this would enable the region to better respond to technical barriers to trade challenges in the region and also between the region and other trading blocks in the world.

The guest of honour also presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following four past members of the SADC SQAM programme who had rendered exceptional service to the SADC region in the area of standards, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology: Mrs Maureen Mutasa (SADCSTAN and SADCA), Mr Michael Peet (SADCA), Mr Justice Kobe (SADCSTAN) and Mr Francis B Karani (SADCMEL) (*award presented posthumously*).

The meetings were attended by over 120 delegates from SADC member states as well as international invited SQAM experts and observers from all over the world. The purpose of the meetings was to review activities carried out by each structure during the past year and to plan for items to be addressed in the coming year as well as to share on items that are of an overlapping or cross cutting nature.

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Tomaz Salomão, was also present at the Opening Ceremony. In his remarks, the Executive Secretary shared with the delegates the support the SQAM programme receives from the Secretariat and how the programme also interlinks with other projects running within SADC. He reiterated that the SQAM Programme had assumed added importance since the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area in August 2008 by the SADC Heads of State and Government. The Executive Secretary also referred to the adoption of both the SPS and TBT Annexes to the SADC Protocol on Trade passed by Ministers of Trade and Industry in July 2008 and highlighted the impact this was expected to have on trade facilitation in the region as well as between the region and other regional trading blocks. Dr Salomão also briefed the gathering on the ongoing initiatives to establish a free trade area between COMESA, EAC and SADC.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual SADCA meeting took place on 23 April 2009 during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual SADC SQAM meetings. Written reports were received from other regional accreditation cooperations. The Chair of EA, Mr Graham Talbot made a presentation on EA and the EU legislation.

The two year term (2007 – 2009) of the Chair, Mrs Masego Marobela of Botswana was completed; however, she indicated her availability for re-election which was accepted by members, and she was duly re-elected for another term of two years. In terms of the SADCA Bylaws, SADCA must have a Vice-Chair,

and Mr Cyprian Mokhorro of Lesotho was elected. The SADCA Project Management Committee (PMC) was disbanded and an Executive Committee (EXCO) was established. The SADCAS project was also formally handed over to the SADCAS Board of Directors.

SADCAS was officially launched on 23 April 2009 in Gaborone, Botswana, and the ceremony was graced by over 200 dignitaries from the SADC Member States, diplomats from various countries and the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão. The Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Daniel Neo Moroka was the guest of honour, and in his speech he noted the key role that accreditation plays in socio-economic development and welcomed the establishment of SADCAS. He also encouraged SADC Member States to facilitate the acceptance of SADCAS in their own countries, and to continue supporting the NAFPs which are the administrative links between SADCAS and Member States.

SADCAS' set up costs are being funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and its aim is to provide internationally recognised and cost effective accreditation services for SADC member states, aimed at supporting regional and international trade. SADCAS also aims to enhance the protection of consumers and improving the competitiveness of SADC products and services in the voluntary and regulatory areas.

### **Executive Committee Meetings**

The SADCA Project Management Committee (PMC) was disbanded at the April 2009 Annual SADCA Meeting and was re-named the Executive Committee (EXCO). The SADCA Executive Committee (EXCO) held its inaugural meeting in September 2009, in Gaborone, Botswana.

During the period under review, three EXCO meetings were held in April 2009, September 2009 and in February 2010.

At the September 2009 inaugural meeting of the EXCO, the following members were confirmed:

- Mrs Masego Marobela – Chairperson
- Mr Cyprian Mokhorro – Vice Chairperson
- Mr Robin Gopee – member
- Mrs Maureen Mutasa – member
- Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu – member
- Mrs Elsabe Steyn – member (with Ms Anna-Marie Lotter as alternate), and
- Mr Riundja Kaakunga – member



**SADCA Executive Committee**

The SADCA Secretariat consisting of the Regional Coordinator and Secretary continue to serve as Secretariat to the EXCO.

#### **NAFPs**

- ❖ **Certificates of Recognition:** Mrs Stella Mrosso, the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Tanzania was the recipient of the inaugural NAFP Award, which was presented by the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Riundja Kaakunga, on 21 April 2009 during the SADCAS Annual General Meeting. The award is presented annually to officers who have served the NAFP office effectively, and is adjudicated by the SADCAS Board of Directors.



From left to right: Mrs Masego Marobela – SADCAS Board of Directors Vice Chair,

Mrs Stella Mrosso – NAFP, Tanzania (*recipient of inaugural NAFP Award*) and Mr Riundja Kaakunga – SADCAS Board of Directors Chair, during the award ceremony

- ❖ **NAFP Launch:** The NAFP for Seychelles is housed at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS), and was launched on 16 June 2009. The launch was officiated by Mr C. Lionnet: Principal Secretary - Ministry of National Development, Mr Riundja Kaakunga – Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors and Mrs Amy Quatre – NAFP, Seychelles and Director-General of SBS.
- ❖ **NAFP - Botswana:** Mr Goitseone Seitshiro has been appointed NAFP for Botswana and replaces Mr Dennis Juta who had been NAFP since its establishment in 2003.
- ❖ **NAFP – Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** Mrs Apauline Feza Matata was appointed second NAFP officer for DRC and will support Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama in undertaking NAFP activities.
- ❖ **NAFP- Malawi:** Following the promotion of Mr Davlin Chokazinga to the position of Director General of the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS), Mr Isaac Mandole Damaziel Chirwa was appointed NAFP officer for Malawi.



From left to right: Mrs M. Mutasa—SADCAS CEO; Mr R. Kaakunga—SADCAS Board Chair; Mr C. Lionnet—Principal Secretary Ministry of National Development (Seychelles); Mrs A. Quatre—NAFP—Seychelles; and Mr S. Nair—Seychelles SADCA Committee member, during the launch

## SADCA Training

From the 16 trainee technical assessors who attended the training course held in 2005, eight trainees have to date been on SANAS assessments as observers. Three of these assessors were qualified as SADCA Technical Assessors. In all instances the assessment teams were impressed with the trainees. SADCA would like to express its gratitude to PTB, Germany for funding the trainees on these assessments.

SADCA hosted a training course on World Trade, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation Requirements in November 2009, in Pretoria, South Africa. The training course was attended by SADCA Committee and EXCO members, SADCAS Board members and NAFPs. The course was sponsored by the SADC /EU SQAM Project. Over 30 delegates attended the course, and its aim was to:

- ❖ Promote an understanding of accreditation and its role in regional and international trade;
- ❖ Promote an understanding of accreditation standards requirements;

- ❖ Promote an overview of the accreditation infrastructure in the region and update delegates on developments in SADCAS; as well as
- ❖ Learn about how to promote and market accreditation and its related services.

The following presentations were made:

- ❖ ***The World Trade Infrastructure and the role of the World Trade Organisation*** by Mr R. Kaakunga, SADCAS Chair;
- ❖ ***Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreements*** by Dr O. Chinyamakobvu and Dr H. Hays of the SADC Secretariat;
- ❖ ***Outline of Regional Accreditation Infrastructure*** by Mrs M.P. Mutasa and Mr R. Josias;
- ❖ ***SADCAS Policy Manual, Roles and Responsibilities of NAFPs and the SADCAS Strategic Planning Process and reporting*** by Mrs M.P. Mutasa;
- ❖ ***Update on SADC / EU SQAM Project*** by Mr M. Ermel; and
- ❖ ***Key Accreditation Standards*** by Mr J. Peart.

The last day of the training course was reserved for a seminar on Marketing, and Mr J. Murthy and Mrs M. Blum of the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee made various presentations on accreditation marketing tools and strategies available.

The training course was highly interactive, and was an excellent platform to recommit to the achievement of regional accreditation goals. Feedback received from the participants of the course showed that it was well received, and plans are being undertaken to ensure that in future this course is run annually.



Group photo of the workshop participants

## AFRAC

A workshop was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 1 to 2 April 2009. The workshop which was sponsored by PTB and hosted by the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) was to discuss the establishment of an Inter-African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). The output of the Mauritius meeting was a document of intent on the establishment of an African Accreditation Cooperation. A Project Development Committee consisting of representatives from the sub-regional groupings was established and tasked to prepare the project document. Some members had already started to engage their respective governments on the

establishment of AFRAC for stakeholder buy in. A meeting was held with NEPAD to discuss the SQAM/SQMT infrastructure in Africa and NEPAD expressed its support for the body and the urgency in the establishment of African accreditation cooperation.

A meeting was held during the ILAC/IAF General Assembly meetings held in Vancouver, Canada in October 2009. The meeting was to prepare for the next AFRAC meeting, which will be held from 14 – 15 April 2010 in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting objectives are as follows:

- ❖ Consideration and approval of the Project Document;
- ❖ Establishment of Task Forces;
- ❖ Consideration and approval of AFRAC logo; and
- ❖ Selection criteria for experts to be trained as peer evaluators.



AFRAC Members pose for a photo in Mauritius

### SADCA Members

#### SADCA Committee Ordinary Members

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Angola                       | Mrs Teodora Lourenco Silva |
| Botswana                     | Mrs Masego Marobela        |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama       |
| Lesotho                      | Mr Cyprian Mokhorro        |
| Malawi                       | Mr Davlin Chokazinga       |
| Mauritius                    | Mr Robin Gopee             |
| Mozambique                   | Mr Alfredo Siteo           |

Namibia  
Seychelles  
Swaziland  
Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

Mr Othy Kaakunga  
Mrs Sreekala Nair  
Mr Henson Dlamini  
Mr Charles Ekelege  
Mr Mataa Mukelabai  
Mrs Eve Gadzikwa

### **SADCA Executive Committee**

Mrs Masego Marobela	Chair
Mr Cyprian Mokhorro	Vice Chair
Mr Ron Josias	Regional Coordinator
Mrs Marie Chilcott	Secretary
Mr Othy Kaakunga	SADCAS Chair
Mrs Maureen Mutasa	SADCAS CEO
Mr Robin Gopee	MAURITAS
Mrs Elsabé Steyn	South African Department of Trade & Industry
Ms Anna-Marie Lötter	South African Department of Trade & Industry (Alternate)
Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu	SADC SQAM Expert (SADC Representative)

### **NAFPs**

Angola	Mr Carmo Dos Santos and Mr Helmir Barbosa
Botswana	Mr Goitseone Seitshiro
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mrs Apauline Feza Matata and Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama
Lesotho	Mr Motjoka Makara
Madagascar	Mr Séraphin Razafimahafaly
Malawi	Mr Isaac Madole Damaziel Chirwa and Mr Lusungu Mwaungulu
Mauritius	Mr Chankar Bheekhun
Mozambique	Ms Guilhermina Nhampulo
Namibia	Mr Nicky litula
Seychelles	Mrs Amy Quatre
Swaziland	Mr Henson Dlamini and Mrs Sthembiso Sybil Dlamini-Mkonta
Tanzania	Mrs Stella Mrosso
Zambia	Mr Nteema Muzandu
Zimbabwe	Mr Christopher Ngwenya and Mrs Mildred Machiri

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## Farewell Note to Mrs Marie Chilcott



Mrs Chilcott was instrumental in arranging the first SADCA workshop which was held in Mauritius in April 1997. A model for both SADCA and the regional accreditation body evolved through a series of consultations, presentations and discussions with representatives of relevant international bodies.

Various international donors were approached to fund meetings and workshops of SADCA for further deliberations on the concept of the regional accreditation body. National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) were also appointed in each of the SADC countries as part of the regional accreditation infrastructure. When international donor funding was eventually obtained, training in World Trade, Conformity Assessment and accreditation requirements were provided to these NAFPs and the SADCA members in 2003. SADCAS was registered in 2005 as a non-profit company in Botswana and its first staff members appointed in 2008. Those who have interacted with Mrs Chilcott will agree that she applied herself to regional accreditation work with dedication, passion and unrelenting enthusiasm.

On behalf of the whole SADC region, we'd like to wish Mrs Chilcott well in her retirement.

## **2. DONOR FUNDING**

### **2.1 NORAD, Norway**

As part of its support towards the establishment and operationalisation of SADCAS, the Norwegian Government through NORAD disbursed a total of BWP 3 075 350.10 of which BWP 1 593 031.26 was disbursed in June 2009 whilst BWP 1 482 318.84 was disbursed in December 2009. This amount covers Workplan 4 period 1 April 2009 up to 31 March 2010. Workplan 4 activities include the following main activities amongst others:

1. Marketing, promoting and communicating the importance and benefits of accreditation and SADCAS services;
2. SADCAS participation in regional and international accreditation fora;
3. Developing and implementing policies and procedures in compliance with ISO/IEC 17011;
4. Handling accreditation enquiries and applications; and
5. Conducting training services on accreditation related activities.

On 5 June 2009, Mr Stange and Mrs Mokhuane from the Norwegian Embassy in South Africa visited SADCAS offices in Gaborone Botswana and were updated on progress with SADCAS set up. An annual meeting with NORAD was held on 22 September 2009 where SADCAS presented a progress report on project activities and the audited financial statements for 2008/09. The report and audited financial statements were accepted. NORAD is very pleased with the project progress and reaffirmed its support towards SADCAS.

### **2.2 PTB, Germany**

PTB realizing the importance of an accreditation cooperation on the African continent funded the workshop on the need for an Inter African Accreditation Cooperation, which was held in Mauritius in April 2009. PTB will fund the AFRAC meeting to be held in Cairo, Egypt from 14 – 15 April 2010.

### **2.3 The South African dti**

The South African **dti** continues to fund the SADCA Secretariat, EXCO meetings and attendance of the SADCA Chairperson and Regional Coordinator at ILAC and IAF meetings.

### **2.4 SADC SQAM / EU Project**

The SADCA component of the EU project focuses largely on the training of assessors for the region. To date all the training courses for Technical and Lead Assessor candidates have been completed, and on-site coaching and evaluations are on-going.

***SADCA wishes to express its continued appreciation to the above donors for funding these very important accreditation initiatives in the SADC region.***

### 3. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

#### 3.1 IAAC Meetings

SADCA did not participate in the 2009 IAAC meetings. however, SADCA sent its annual report to the IAAC on the occasion of its General Assembly.

#### 3.2 ILAC and IAF Meetings

Mr Josias, the SADCA Regional Coordinator, serves on the Executive Committee of ILAC and Mrs Marobela, the SADCA Chair serves on the IAF Executive Committee. Their attendance at these meetings is very important in ensuring SADC participation internationally.

Mr Josias and Mrs Mutasa attended the joint annual meetings of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) which were held in Vancouver, Canada, from 10 – 20 October 2009. African delegations at this meeting included representatives from SADCA, SADCAS, ECOWAS countries, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia.

An important milestone was achieved when SADCAS was admitted by IAF in the new category of Special Recognition Organisation. SADCAS was also admitted into ILAC as an Associate Member.

The newly formed Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) was accepted as signatory to the ILAC MRA for testing and calibration, and the signing ceremony was held in October 2009.

The main topic of discussion during the joint ILAC/IAF General Assembly was the future developments of both ILAC and IAF. An analysis of the benefits, disadvantages, cost implications and external perceptions and acceptance of the following three options was presented:

**Option 1:** Current structure with more effective cooperation between ILAC and IAF.

**Option 2:** Legal entities with partial integration.

**Option 3:** Integrate the two organisations into a single entity.

The three options were circulated to ILAC/IAF member bodies for a 30 day ballot in November 2009.

In order to minimise the risk of loss due to currency fluctuation, all membership fees will now have to be paid in Australian Dollars. The standard practice was to convert the fees into US Dollars before it was paid to ILAC. The General Assembly approved a change in the ILAC fees formula which as a component of number of accredited laboratories, the country UN classification and a fiddle factor to balance the books. The change now favours the smaller Accreditation Bodies with less than 50 accredited facilities.

The next ILAC/IAF General Assemblies are scheduled to be held in Shanghai, China from 20 – 29 October 2010.

## 4. MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

### Newsletters

SADCA has provided regular reports to the newsletters of ILAC, IAAC, EA, APLAC, PAC and the SANAS Communiqué. Various presentations on SADCA and SADCAS were also made at international and regional meetings.

Regular feedback on SADCA and SADCAS activities are provided to the SANAS and NLA Boards.

## 5. FUTURE PLANS

- ❖ SADCA will continue assisting with the integration of the technical infrastructure being created within SADC into the regional strategies to manage TBT and SPS related activities.
- ❖ Initiation of SADCA MLAs.
- ❖ Focusing on the training of technical experts for use as technical and lead assessors, trainers and peer evaluators for the SADC region.
- ❖ Continuation for the establishment of an Inter African Accreditation Cooperation.
- ❖ Submission of projects to international donor funding organizations for further funding of SADCA activities.
- ❖ Liaison and cooperation with other regional accreditation bodies like EA, APLAC and continue the cooperation with IAAC.



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